FBIS DAILY REPORT

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HURTADO RECEIVES SELA-CEPAL ECONOMIC PLAN

PA171334 Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 2300 GMT 16 May 83

[Text] Delegates of the 22 countries that will be present at the delivery of the document prepared by SELA and CEPAL [Economic Commission for Latin America] on the joint strategy to overcome the economic crisis affecting the region arrived in Quito over the weekend.

In a ceremony at Government Palace, Carlos Alzamora, permanent secretary of SELA, and economist Enrique Iglesias, executive secretary of CEPAL, officially delivered to President Hurtado the basic document for a Latin American plan to face the crisis.

Among other things, the plan recommends that Latin American countries take advantage of the crisis they are now confronting to change the development systems they have used in the past, which have made them very vulnerable and dependent. The document also points out the need for promoting regional cooperation and integration as the basis for Latin America's security and economic independence. The document notes that it is time to use the region's joint power for negotiation to correct the harmful, unbalanced structure of its foreign relations.

In relation to the region's $300 billion foreign debt, the document proposes the unification of all affected countries in order to obtain a renegotiation with new and stable foundations that will permit an equal distribution of the cost of international adjustment, and also maintain the standard of living in each country.

At the ceremony, the Ecuadorean president, after expressing his gratitude and satisfaction over the accomplishment of his objective, said that the document will be sent to the other Latin American countries in order to begin joint work as soon as possible.

Hurtado Larrea also said that the crisis, although economic, requires a political approach. Technical studies are therefore undoubtedly necessary, which is why two organizations that encompass Latin America's most outstanding economists have been consulted.

[Begin Hurtado recording -- in progress] ... the greatest challenge for Latin America and the Caribbean during the present century, on 11 February of this year I sent notice to CEPAL Executive Secretary Enrique Iglesias, and SELA Permanent Secretary Carlos Alzamora requesting them on behalf of the Ecuadorean Government to prepare proposals to develop Latin America's capacity to respond and to strengthen its cooperation systems, which would serve as the basis for drafting an action plan with (?the help and cooperation) of all the governments in the region.

Simultaneously, I sent notes to the Latin American and Caribbean chiefs of state to inform them about the Ecuadorean initiative and request their indispensable collaboration.

The presidents generously accepted my petition, and unanimously backed my request to CEPAL and SELA. Thanks to their support, these organizations knew that the request was not only from the Ecuadorean Government, but also from all Latin American governments.

I appreciate such a positive response, expressed once again with the appointment of the regional presidents' personal representatives attending this ceremony, whom I am pleased to welcome. Your stimulating presence here shows the interest and concern of your governments in finding a joint solution to the economic crisis confronting us.

It is with special satisfaction that, together with such distinguished delegates, I receive from Carlos Alzamora and Enrique Iglesias the basis for Latin America's answer to the international economic crisis. This document is destined to be of particular importance in the continent's future.

I appreciate and I am thankful for the contributions of CEPAL's and SELA's secretaries and of all those who worked with them, as well as for the participation of ALADI [Latin American Integration Association] SELA, OLADE, and the Cartagena group. [end recording]

CUBA'S LLOMPART ADDRESSES QUITO CONFERENCE

FL171433 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Cuban Minister Hector Rodriguez Llompart has represented Latin American nations at a ceremony held in Quito, Ecuador, during which the SELA and CEPAL proposal aimed at overcoming the area economic crisis was presented to the region.

In a speech at a ceremony attended by Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Luis Valencia, personal representatives of 22 Latin American chiefs of government and representatives of the Spanish Government, the Cuban minister termed positive the petition submitted by Ecuadoran President Osvaldo Hurtado to SELA and CEPAL on common solutions for Latin America to face up the region's grave crisis. This request was made by the Ecuadoran president last February.

BIGNONE DEPARTS NEUQUEN, ARRIVES IN VIEDMA

PY171517 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2236 GMT 16 May 83

[Text] Viedma, 16 May (TELAM) -- The presidential plane that flew General Reynaldo Bignone from Neuquen Province arrived at 1925 [2225 GMT] at the Gobernador Castello Airport of this capital. Thus, the president begins his visit to Rio Negro Province.

The chief of state, who will stay here until tomorrow afternoon, and his entourage were met by Carlos Fernando San Juan, the governor of Rio Negro, and by representatives of the three military services.

POLICE REPORT DEATH OF MONTONEROS OFFICIAL

PY180334 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2235 GMT 17 May 83

[Communique released by Buenos Aires Province police on 17 May on death of Justicialist Party member Osvaldo Cambiasso]

[Text] The Buenos Aires Province police headquarters hereby reports that on Saturday, 14 May 1983, at approximately 1730 [2030 GMT], a unit of the Tigre region patrol patrolling the Pan American Highway to prevent holdups of truck drivers and other crimes spotted a light beige Fiat 1500 car trying to avoid the police patrol to prevent identification. When the car speeded up, the police unit began following it. The Fiat 1500 carrying two people then left the highway and took a dirt road. Upon approaching the Fiat 1500, the police unit was fired upon. The patrol returned the fire, killing the two persons in the car.

After the first steps for identifying the bodies were taken and Dr Luis H. Milessi, the federal judge of San Nicolas judicial department, was notified, it was thought that the bodies were those of N. Cambiasso and Justo Javier Correa.

As the investigation continued, fingerprints revealed that the dead were Osvaldo Agustin Cambiasso, 42, Argentine citizen, single, a chemical engineer whose last residence was in Santa Fe Province. His dossier reveals the following: In 1971 he was sentenced to 11-years imprisonment on several counts of having used arms in criminal actions, aggravated robbery, aggravated disobedience to the authorities, public document forgery, possession of military weapons and ammunition, and aggravated association for illegal purposes. On 12 February 1976 he faced charges for violating law 20,840 and for being involved in private and public document forgery. He was also questioned in connection with a car theft case.

As for Justo Javier Correa, it was determined that he was actually Eduardo Daniel Pereira Rossi, alias "Carlon," 33, Argentine citizen, single, employee with last residence in the city of La Plata. Correa was brough to trial in 1973 and 1974 on document forgery and arms possession charges. In 1976, he was the head of the southern column of the OPM Montoneros (paramilitary organization); in 1977/79, he was OPM Montoneros general press secretary; in 1980, secretary of the organization of the OPM Montoneros southern zone, and in 1981, OPM Montoneros chief of information dissemination in Mexico. It is also known that Pereira Rossi left for Mexico in 1977 and that he traveled to Peru in November of the same year.

He returned to Mexico in November 1978 and to Argentina in 1979, and participated in the launching of the "counteroffensive" campaign. In November 1979, he again went to Mexico.

The Fiat 1500 has been seized together with a 9 millimeter pistol and a 38 caliber long-barrelled revolver, The weapons had been used by the two men to attack the police patrol.

The appropriate investigation is being conducted by Federal Judge Milessi and the dossier has been labeled "Attack against and disobedience to the authorities, abuse of arms, double homicide during altercation, and possession of military weapons."

Bignone Comments on Death

PY180342 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0101 GMT 18 May 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 17 May (NA) -- President Bignone denied today that leader Osvaldo Cambiasso, killed in a confrontation, had been kidnapped by "security organizations," and added that he shared the opinion contained in the "communique released by the Buenos Aires police."

Bignone made these remarks tonight a little past 2100 at the metropolitan airport upon returning from a tour through the provinces of Neuquen and Rio Negro.

Although he was away from Buenos Aires for 2 days, Bignone showed that he was well aware of the events involving the deaths of Cambiasso and Eduardo Pereira Rossi. In answer to a reporter's question, Bignone stated that "by no means does the government intend to encourage" a new subversive outbreak, and that the explanations on the event "are given in detail in the communique released by the Buenos Aires provincial police."

FOREIGN MINISTRY ON CONSULATE INCIDENT IN MADRID

PY172359 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1817 GMT 16 May 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 May (TELAM) -- The Argentine Foreign Ministry reported this afternoon that it will not issue any additional information since what happened at the Argentine Consulate in Madrid was strictly a police incident.

It was reported that about 30 demonstrators including Argentines, Uruguayans and persons from other Latin American countries, unsuccessfuly tried to submit an unsigned note to our diplomatic representatives.

According to reports from Madrid, the objective of the demonstration was to protest against the missing persons issue and to express support for those Argentine organizations involved in this issue.

COSTA RICAN VICE PRESIDENT, AGUIRRE LANARI MEET

PY172207 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1602 GMT 17 May 83

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 17 May (NA) -- Costa Rican First Vice President Alberto Fait Lizano, who met with Foreign Minister Juan Aguirre Lanari today, told reporters that he was "glad Argentina's institutionalization process had advanced so much."

"I confess to you that I have just learned about the existence of an electoral program -- and this is quite reassuring -- in an atmosphere of freedom of opinion which I was able to see in newspaper reports and television programs," he added.

In turn, Aguirre Lanari said that he expressed to the visitor his gratitude for Coast Rica's support for the Argentine cause in the Malvinas issue. "I was pleased to listen to his remarks on the Argentine situation, about which he received firsthand knowledge on this visit," Aguirre Lanari said.

This afternoon Fait Lizano will preside over a meeting at the Foreign Ministry, where a bilateral commission will be created. He will also visit the Central Bank, where he will hand over an agreement that was signed with the Costa Rican Central Bank.

FRENCH DIPLOMAT ON MEETING WITH AGUIRRE LANARI

PY171815 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2230 GMT 16 May 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 May (TELAM) -- Antoine Blanca, the French president's roving ambassador, has stated that he will have failed if his visit were to be considered interference in Argentine internal affairs.

The diplomat had a brief chat with journalists at the end of his meeting with Foreign Minister Juan Aguirre Lanari, which he called positive, because "we discussed every international and bilateral problem, especially the situation in Latin America and especially the situation in Central America."

He then outlined the topics that were discussed: the upcoming meeting in Yugoslavia of the industrialized and developing countries, the French position regarding the regulation of the prices of raw materials and monetary polices.

He added that they discussed Central America at length because the Costa Rican vice president is presently visiting here.

When the question of the missing was brought up, journalists asked whether France considered this topic as an internal Argentine affair. He answered that he was visiting mainly to collect information on Argentina's institutionalization process, because of the extreme interest that France has that the process be implemented.

Finally, the journalists insisted on asking whether or not this could be considered interference in Argentina's internal affairs, and he said that he believed not. "If it is harmful, then to my regret, I will have failed."

Ambassador Blanca arrived at San Martine Palace at 1700 [2000 GMT] and he immediately met with the foreign minister and his closest advisers. The meeting lasted for 75 minutes.

ARMY IMPOSES 8-DAY ARREST ON RETIRED OFFICER

PY112240 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1247 GMT 11 May 83

[Text] Mendoza, 11 May (NA) -- Relatives of Lieutenant Colonel Horacio Farmache, retired, who heads the "17 de Octubre" Justicialist faction, indicated here that the Army commander in chief imposed an 8-day arrest on Farmache, because the retired officer had condemned the Military Junta document on the antisubversive war.

A report that General Pedro Leon Lucero, retired -- former Mendoza Province intervenor during the Justicialist government -- has also been arrested on the same grounds could not be confirmed.

Talking to reporters, the two officers criticized the official report on the war against terrorism. Farmache is serving the sentence in his home.

PROVINCIAL MULTIPARTY GROUP CRITICIZES REGIME

PY171725 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2330 GMT 16 May 83

[Text] Viedma, 16 May (NA) -- The Multiparty Group of Rio Negro Province today expressed "its firm repudiation of the antidemocratic regime" that President Reynaldo Bignone represents, and it denounced "the most cruel violation of human rights through the implementation of true state terrorism."

In a very severe declaration that was distributed here, the group states that "a simple 24-hour visit will not resolve the region's serious problems, a region that has always been forgotten."

The document expresses "repudiation of the military dictatorship, which during the past 7 years has provoked the current state of despair that has no precedent in Argentine history." It adds that "this situation can be seen through the destruction of the productive apparatus and of the regional economies and through the deterioration of salaries, with its sequel of misery, helplessness and unemployment."

Further on, it expresses "indignation in face of the subversion of ethical and moral values promoted from the seat of power, through the encouragement of speculation to the detriment of work; the covering up of criminal actions and through the most cruel violation of human rights through the implementation of true state terrorism that has left thousands dead and thousands of arrested-missing persons."

It also denounces the "arbitrary management of the mass media through cnesorship and the functioning of a repressive apparatus that is still intact."

Finally, it states that "the political groups that are signers of this declaration maintain that this is the time when the people have to participate and not be mere spectators in order to finally defeat our usual enemies."

The declaration is signed by Omar Lehner and Reno Constanzo for the Justicialist Party; Gustavo Larrabite and E. Moser for the Radical Civic Union; Hugo Mantaras for the Intransigent Party; Enrique Minetti for the Christian Democrats; and Miguel Muglione for the Developmentalists.

RAILWAY ISSUES COMMUNIQUE ON STRIKE CALL

PY172254 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 17 May 83

[Excerpt] The Argentine railway enterprise has issued a communique as a consequence of the strike decreed by the traffic personnel of the Victoria branch of the Mitre Railway line.

After explaining that the strike affects services between Retiro, Tigre, Victoria and Capilla del Senor stations, the communique points out that the salary increase for the mentioned workers was being negotiated with the Normalizing Committee of the Railway Union [Comision Normalizadora de la Union Ferroviaria] and that no problems have appeared during the negotiations because of the optimistic atmosphere that has always prevailed.

The communique then points out that on 19 April, the Normalizing Committee publicly prohibited any measures of direct action while talks between the two parties continue, since all points of view should be submitted to this committee.

NAVY CHIEF ON SOVEREIGNTY, INSTITUTIONALIZATION

PY172247 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1500 GMT 17 May 83

[Report on speech by Navy Commander Ruben Oscar Franco on Navy Day on 17 May at a ceremony held in Ushuaia]

[Excerpts] Ushuaia, 17 May (TELAM) -- Navy Commander Ruben Oscar Franco stated today that we shall continue to defend our sovereign rights in the Beagle conflict within the framework of the papal mediation. He said that the final solution will be achieved with the consent of the people. He also said that we shall reverse the usurpation of the Malvinas Islands by Great Britain.

The navy commander, who presided over the main ceremonies tnat were held here today to commemorate Navy Day, delivered a speech in which he discussed the national institutionalization process. He said: We shall uphold democracy as a guarantee of freedom. Peace at the domestic level will be consolidated and defended against any kind of extremism aimed at either thwarting or undermining our way of life.

Regarding the Malvinas Island conflict, he noted that Great Britain's arbitrary decision to take over part of our southern territory is not only an offense and an insult to Argentina, but to the entire Latin American Continent. We shall reverse this injustice since this is our irrevocable right.

Regarding the Beagle he said: We shall continue to defend our sovereign rights within the framework of the papal mediation since we trust the justice and wisdom of the holy father. In this regard he noted that any solution that is achieved would naturally have to be acceptable to the two parties involved, but that under no circumstances would it be achieved without the consent of the people.

Franco noted that he believes that Ushuaia is the proper site to commemorate the anniversary of the Navy in the year in which the national reorganization process will fulfill its historic promise of opening the path toward democracy by carrying out a national institutionalization process. The process will be carried out with the help of all citizens. It will be done by seeking truth, and not by seeking a monopoly on truth. It will be done by encouraging the unity of the nation so that we will be able to commemorate all future navy days under constitutional governments.

He added that we are ending a stage, and that the will of the people will be respected in the next elections. He therefore asked the people to use the polls to choose wisely and to correct mistakes.

France said that democracy means the exercise of a patiently awaited right that no one should renounce. What is more, democracy is a magnificent undertaking that we must bequeath to generation after generation of Argentines. After we achieve this goal, after so many sufferings and disagreements, we shall be satisfied for having supported, promoted, and achieved the return of democracy.

After noting the meaning of naval power and the importance of the Argentine naval industry, Admiral Franco said: The Navy is ready to return to sea. It has no commitments with either individual men or political parties or sectors. Its only commitment is to the fatherland in keeping with the main philosophy inherited from Brown and San Martin, namely that we shall continue to carry out our specific tasks in keeping with the Constitution: keeping peace at the domestic level and defending our continent from aggression, a defense which demands the implementation of strategies based on increasingly sophisticated technology and a high level of training, with the clear understanding that overcoming the sea is a new means to extend territorial borders beyond beaches and coastlines.

INTERIOR MINISTER ON ARCE GOMEZ' ARREST

PY171530 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 17 May 83

[Excerpt] The most important news to be received during the past few hours is undoubtedly the report that former Bolivian Interior Minister Luis Arce Gomez has been placed under preventive arrest in Buenos Aires.

Arce Gomez has been placed under preventive arrest until U.S. Government authorities submit to the Argentine Government documents proof of the crimes committed by Garcia Meza's strongman, for which Ronald Reagan's government wants Arce Gomez extradited.

Radio Panamericana, direct from Buenos Aires, gave wide coverage to this report. The subject now requires comments from the Bolivian Government. Interior Minister Mario Roncal Antezana, who is currently occupying the same post that Arce Gomez occupied in 1980, comments on the situation:

[Begin Roncal recording] Yes, we have received the information and we understand that former Colonel Luis Arce Gomez has been placed under arrest on the orders of a federal judge on the basis of an extradition request. In accordance with Argentine law, the requesting country must submit its charges against Arce Gomez within a period of 45 days so that the Argentine Supreme Court can hand down its decision. [end recording]

Although Arce Gomez is currently in the hands of the Argentine courts, we would like to know what Bolivia's position will be in view of the arrest that has been made in Buenos Aires, naturally taking into account that Arce Gomez was a minister during a de facto government.

[Begin Roncal recording] You must understand that we have a problem. If we ask for his extradition it would appear that we are blocking the U.S. request and if we submitted a request for extradition, it could be taken as a political request. This could lead the Argentine courts to deny the request, calling the charges political crimes that he committed in Bolivia while he was a member of the government. [end recording]

Interior Minister Roncal considers that it is not necessary for Bolivia to ask for Arce Gomez' extradition.

PS-1 Demands Extradition

PY171832 La Paz Illimani Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 17 May 83

[Excerpts] The Socialist Party No 1 (PS-1) today demanded the extradition of Luis Arce Gomez, who is currently under arrest in Argentina. In statements to the press, PS-1 Leader Jose Maria Palacios stated that the government must start the appropriate procedures so that this criminal can answer for his crimes in Bolivia's courts. [passage omitted]

The Bolivian people are more important than the request that has been made by U.S. courts and he must pay for his crimes here in Bolivia.

FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER EXPLAINS RESIGNATION

PY171829 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 17 May 83

[Excerpts] Former Foreign Minister Mario Velarde Dorado explained to the press today that his resignation was due to a persistent misunderstanding with the interior minister regarding the eradication of drug trafficking.

Velarde Dorado asked to speak to the press to explain why he had resigned from the post that had been given to him by the president on 10 October 1982.

During his chat with the press, he stated that his health, which was slowly deteriorating, was another reason for his resignation. The need of having to assume the post of secretary general of the Nationalist Revolutionary Movement of the Left [MNRI], which is headed by President Hernan Siles Zuazo, was another reason for his resignation.

Stressing the misunderstanding that he had with the interior minister, the former foreign minister stated that in his opinion the eradication of drug trafficking must be implemented rapidly.

NEW FOREIGN MINISTER VIEWS RELATIONS WITH CHILE

PY172059 Paris AFP in Spanish 1721 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] La Paz, 17 May (AFP) -- New Foreign Minister, Marcial Tamayo Saenz said in La Paz today that conditions are not appropriate for a resumption of diplomatic relations with Chile.

In his first foreign policy statement after taking over as foreign minister, Tamayo Saenz said that Bolivia's foreign policy is exactly the opposite of that of Chile.

He emphasized that while the Santiago regime wants to reestablish relations first and discuss Bolivia's maritime problem afterwards, "our country feels that the reestablishment of relations is tied to the prior launching of talks on the landlocked situation we must endure."

He also pointed out that while General Augusto Pinochet's regime sees Bolivia's landlocked situation as a bilateral problem, Hernan Siles Zuazo's administration views it as a multilateral affair over which it has repeatedly received statements of support from friendly nations and international organizations.

It was recalled that Bolivia lost its seacoast on the Pacific Ocean immediately after the war it fought against Chile in 1879.

SURINAMESE PRIME MINISTER TO VISIT 23-25 MAY

PY180248 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 17 May 83 p 4

[Text] Brasilia (O GLOBO) -- Surinamese Prime Minister Errol Alibux will visit Brazil 23 to 25 May to discuss political, economic, and military cooperation between the two countries.

In Paramaribo, observers drew attention to the fact that Netherlands Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers will visit Brazil right after the Surinamese prime minister's visit to Brasilia. Relations between the Netherlands and Suriname have cooled since the Netherlands Government cut off aid to its former colony in the wake of the Army's widespread repression against dissidents at the end of last year, when at least 15 persons were executed.

O GLOBO ON REQUEST FOR REAGAN'S HELP ON LOANS

PY171834 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 15 May 83 pp 1, 41

[Text] Yesterday Planalto Palace spokesman Carlos Atila disclosed that President Figueiredo had phoned U.S. President Ronald Reagan requesting his intervention to encourage U.S. banks to speed up the release of loan funds already negotiated with Brazil.

The loans are related to Project No 3 [refers to postponement of due-dates for short-term payments involving import operations] and Project No 4 [refers to request for foreign banks to maintain interbank credit lines to Brazilian banks operating abroad] of the overall refinancing program of Brazil's 1983 foreign debt. These credit lines still have not reached the level desired by Brazil because of the credit restrictions on part of the banks, in particular, U.S. and European small and medium banks.

Carlos Langoni, president of the Central Bank stated in New York that Brazil does not wish nor need to request for new loans to the international banks.

DEMONSTRATORS IN PIAVI STATE DEMAND JOBS

PY170348 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 0230 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] In Teresina [Piavi State capital], some 200 people gathered in front of the 2d Engineer Battalion headquarters today and demanded jobs in the programs of struggle against drought. Since they obtained no answer, the group demonstrated in front of (Karnak) Palace, the state government office building. Two students were reported arrested.

PAPER SEES SHIFT IN POSITION ON LIBYAN ARMS

PY161255 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 14 May 83 p 6

[Text] Yesterday, in Rio de Janeiro, Aeronautics Minister Delio Jardim de Mattos admitted the possibility of the Brazilian Government reviewing its position regarding the Libyan arms and authorizing the arms to leave the country on the same Libyan planes which are being retained in Recife and Manaus, as demanded by Al-Qadhdhafi, to solve the impasse between Brasilia and Tripoli.

The minister stated that "it all depends on the understanding which the Foreign Relations Ministry is seeking and the agreement which the two countries may reach. Our main desire is that the materiel leave the country as soon as possible." Some 15 days ago Minister Jardim de Mattos did not want to even mention this possibility. On several occasions he emphatically stated that "Brazil will never negotiate its sovereignty."

When he was approached by journalists at the Afonsos Air Base yesterday morning, the minister tried to avoid them but ended up agreeing to "briefly" talk about the issue during a cocktail party to celebrate the silver jubilee of the V Air Transportation Brigade. Before starting to answer the questions, Minister Delio de Mattos -- who was obviously nervous -- asked permission to light a cigarette and while drying his brow with a handkerchief stated "I have no news." In answering a journalist's question on the state of the case of the Libyan planes the minister stated:

"Today (yesterday) Itamaraty is in contact with the Libyan Government trying to solve the issue. I hope that those planes will leave as soon as possible but they will only be able to leave the country once the current impasse is solved."

In referring to the solutions which are being discussed by the two countries with the purpose of solving the impasse he stated: "They are diplomatic solutions of which I am not aware."

One journalist asked: "Is there a fixed date for the shipment of those arms?"

"There is no date for their shipment. I am only awaiting a solution to the impasse. The Aeronautic Ministry is the mere depository of the arms."

"The Libyan Government has stated that the planes will only leave with the arms. What is your opinion on this demand?"

"That is something which concerns Itamaraty which is conducting the negotiations...."

"Sir, do you think Brazil will continue to sell arms to Libya?"

"We will continue to do so for the time being. It will all depend on the diplomatic negotiations which will determine whether we will continue to sell them arms or not." (One of the last agreements signed with Brazil provides for the delivery of 120 aircraft to the government of Tripoli).

"Is there any possibility that the seized arms will be transported by the Libyan planes themselves?"

Minister Delio de Mattos was slow in answering the question and not very successful in concealing his embarrassment: "It will all depend on the understanding which the Foreign Ministry is seeking and any agreement which the two countries may reach. Our main desire is that the materiel leave the country as soon as possible."

Minister's Further Comment

PY171100 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 0230 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Aeronautics Minister Lieutenant General Delio Jardim de Mattos said today that the Brazilian Government's decision not to return the Libyan arms aboard the same planes that were carrying them to Nicaragua has not changed.

Minister de Mattos said that the Aeronautics Ministry is only in charge of keeping the arms and that it is waiting until the Foreign Ministry concludes the negotiations with Libya and indicates the way the affair is to be solved.

PLANNING MINISTER DEFENDS ECONOMIC POLICY

PY180230 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Planning Minister Delfim Netto made a statement today in the Senate in which he defended the nation's foreign debt as a factor required for development, and justified the decision of the Geisel administration to resort to the international financial market in an attempt to overcome the throttling of the balance of payments.

The planning minister went to the Senate in response to the summons of Aloyisio Chavez, head of the government party bloc. According to Delfim Netto, a significant portion of the growth of the Brazilian foreign debt was caused by the imperative need to continue paying for increasingly more expensive oil imports, which after the first large price increase in 1974 created a number of problems for oil-importing countries.

[Begin Netto recording] When the oil crisis came about it caused a worldwide commotion and no one knew what was going to happen. It was only natural that the nations sought to build up reserves, not only of oil but also of other raw materials, because no one had a clear idea of what the Middle East situation was going to develop into. [end recording]

Delfim Netto emphasized that under the Figueiredo administration, Brazil's payment problems became critical only after the uncontrolled growth of interest rates on the international financial market. [Begin Netto recording] The interest rate, which in 1976 was around 6.25 percent, went to 11 or 12 percent in 1978, to 15 percent in 1979 and to 21 percent in 1980. It began to fall in 1981; to 16 percent that year, to 11.5 percent in 1982 and is now around 10.5 percent. [end recording]

According to the minister, an accumulation of current account deficits coupled with the increase in interest rates had truly disastrous consequences for developing nations and caused enormous difficulties for Brazil. Delfim Netto said that these facts, together with the war for the Malvinas, and the cessation of payments declared by Poland first and Mexico second, made the international financial system panic and this curtailed the normal flow of funds needed for the management of Brazil's foreign debt. Delfim Netto stressed that President Figueiredo's administration weathered the storm with pride and pragmatism, seeking to renegotiate the terms of payment with private banks and international credit organizations.

Thus, the government came up with the only arrangement capable of preserving enough economic activity to guarantee the maximum rate of employment possible while maintaining open the sources of credit needed for future stages of development.

The minister said that the nation must not delude itself as there are still difficulties ahead of us, and must continue making efforts to complete the adjustments required by the crisis which prevails in the nation's economy.

He reasserted that the government is working steadily to fulfill the three goals capable of guaranteeing Brazil's economic independence; renewed support for agriculture, doubling efforts in the production of energy, and expanding exports.

[Begin Netto recording] We have everything in our favor for pursuing this course of action. We have everything in our favor for pursuing our development, not perhaps to the ambitious extent we did in the past, but a continuous development, a development based on marked structural changes in our export system that will not burden our balance of payments with additional problems. [end recording]

At the end of his statement Delfim Netto reaffirmed that today's policy is bound to resolve current difficulties.

SOVIET FAIR ENDS WITH $3.5 MILLION IN DEALS

PY170410 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 11 May 83 p 26

[Text] Negotiations for $3.5 million, with contracts signed for the purchase of patents for continuous horizontal ingot casting, gasification of coal, machine tools, and machines, are the results of the Soviet commercial and industrial fair, according to remarks by Aleksandr Belokurov, commercial director of the fair.

The objective of the fair, which opened on 27 April and will close today, was to allow the establishment of greater trade between the two countries, with the possibility of signing new contracts, which could take place during the next few years, Vladislav Kurenkov, head of the Soviet commercial mission in Brazil, explained.

An announcement was made at a press conference regarding the purchase by the Soviet Union of a container-carrier ship for the transport of frozen products, especially chickens, the shipment of which is scheduled for June 1984. This deal involves the Union of Chicken Exporters [Uniao dos Exportadorers de Frango -- UNEF] Sunaman [National Superintendency of the Merchant Marine], Seplan [Secretariat of Planning], Comar-Navigation Company, and the Finance Ministry.

Kurenkov also said that "there is a vast field for promoting cooperation between Brazil and the Soviet Union, with transfer of advanced technology, especially for large projects."

LABOR LEADERS MEET WITH INTERIOR MINISTER

PY171814 Sanitago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 17 May 83

[Relay from Government House by Graciela Contreras]

[Excerpts] Union leaders of labor organizations which took part in the so-called national day of protest held last Wednesday voiced their hope that they will be able to continue meeting with government authorities.

This statement was made at the end of a meeting held at the labor union leaders' request with Interior Minister General Enrique Montero at La Moneda Palace.

Hernol Flores, president of the National Association of Government Employees (ANEF), (Eduardo Vigo), representative of the maritime workers and president the Democratic Union of Workers [UDT] and Federico Mujica, president of the Confederation of Private Sector Employees held separate meetings with Gen Montero in his office at La Moneda Palace.

At the end of each meeting the labor union representatives told the media that they had discussed the workers' socioeconomic demands and that they had voiced the workers' point of view regarding the labor law.

The interior minister referred to the meetings he held with the workers' representatives:

[Begin recording] [Montero] Last week, through high-ranking ministry officials, the union leaders requested a meeting with the interior minister to discuss labor issues, and other national problems.

[Question indistinct]

[Montero] Rather than a specific (?proposal) it is one of a general nature. As you can see, they all refer to current labor problems, but they are interesting and [words indistinct] [end recording].

At the end of the meeting (Eduardo Vigo), representative of the UDT, voiced his satisfaction that the meeting broke the ice which has separated the labor sector from the government since 1976. [passage omitted]

Federico Mujica, president of the CEPCH, stated that the meeting had been a very positive exchange of basic points of view regarding problems which affect certain labor sectors.

HAVANA REPORTS 'WAVE OF ARRESTS,' REPRESSION

PA170132 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] While the wave of arrests that began with the protest demonstration of 11 May continues in Chile, the Augusto Pinochet regime has revealed new repressive measures that will be implemented as of today. Even though Interior Minister General Enrique Montero did not specify what these measures are to include, the people believe that they were already enforced in mid-May when the repressive forces carried out a gigantic roundup like those experienced during the early months of the military junta's government.

Early that morning, members of the National Information Center, Carabineros and soldiers, surrounded the working suburbs in south Santiago and led all men 14 years of age and older to a football stadium for interrogation. Some 2,000 people were arrested during the operation, 200 of whom were sent to unknown places after being interrogated.

This new escalation in repression began immediately after the people's mass protest demonstration on 11 May. The people were protesting the Chilean fascist junta's socio-economic policy, which is responsible for the worst crisis ever felt in the nation.

CARABINEROS DISCOVER ABANDONED AMMUNITION

PY180208 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Personnel of the Carabineros have made an important discovery of ammunition in the neighborhood of Pudahuel in greater Santiago. The discovery was made by personnel of the 26th police precinct. On the way to La Estrella, hidden in the underbrush, the police found a cardboard box, 30 cm in length, 15 cm in width, and 12 cm high. It included eight boxes with 15 rounds of 7 mm bullets. Of these eight boxes which contain a total of 120 rounds, two held (fromae) bullets for Mauser rifles, and the other six had (BWM) Czechoslovak bullets for (Stear) type rifles.

Later, after new research, the same personnel found a plastic bag in some bushes with 150 rounds of 7 mm Mauser bullets, manufactured in Germany. According to police sources, the ammunition is in perfect condition, which leads them to presume that it was abandoned during the evening by the owners to prevent it from being discovered in future raids.

MARITIME RESOURCES CONFERENCE INAUGURATED

PY171701 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] In inaugurating the international conference on maritime resources Chilean Foreign Minister Miguel Schweitzer called for greater cooperation between countries bordering the Pacific Ocean.

During the inaugural ceremony, held at the Independencia Hall in the O'Higgins Hotel in Vina del Mar, the minister stated that every advantage must be taken of the experience acquired by the Permanent South Pacific Commission and that this will permit active participation and the adoption of concrete projects for the development of Latin America's maritime interests.

He also pointed out that the Pacific Ocean has become the world's center of activity.

PRESIDENT BETANCUR ON M-19, AREA ISSUES

PA172133 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 15 May 83 pp 1, 22, 23, 24

[Written responses by Colombian President Belisario Betancur to questions submitted to him by Carlos Alberto Montaner -- no date or place given]

[Excerpts] Carlos A. Montaner: The M-19 [19 April Movement] has rejected the amnesty law and has chosen to go on with its armed struggle. What will the government's response to this attitude be?

Belisario Betancur: From the moment we set in motion the amnesty as approved by Congress, we said that a door had been opened to a long period in which we must persuade the subversives and the people, of course, of the government's democratic nature and of its commitment to changing the unjust economic and social situations that gave rise to subversion. The negative declarations from several rebel groups were expected, and we will not be discouraged by them. In addition to its intrinsic strength, the government has the support of the majority. Thus, it can remain calm, acting without arrogance, but prepared to repel all criminal activities. As someone said, we are a calm power.

Montaner: The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) -- the military arm of the Communist Party, having old links with the communists -- is apparently prepared to put down its arms. In your opinion, is this just a tactic or does it represent a general change in the political groups' strategy of struggle?

Betancur: I like to work with facts and not with theoretical speculation. Each rebel group has its own motivations and its own logic. On the basis of this and other data, we are keeping our doors and windows open to dialogue. We do it through the Peace Commission and the High Peace Commissioners, who go responsibly and unselfishly wherever they are called upon to go. In addition to this, we are taking resources from every possible source -- and we will take more every day, even amid our economic difficulties -- to demonstrate, with facts, that our primary objective is to eliminate the cause of subversion (the peasants' lack of protection, the lack of credit, unemployment, malnutrition -- in other words, underdevelopment. As I see it, the struggle against subversion is a struggle against backwardness). These causes do not disappear overnight. This is an old problem. In any event, whether or not the change is general and whether it is the result of a tactic or a strategy, the government will welcome any goodwill gesture from the rebels. [passage omitted]

Montaner: The Cuban Government has publicly admitted its participation in training and supplying M-19 guerrillas. In an interview published by the magazine CROMOS, Fidel Castro said that he is prepared to continue to help subversive groups, except those that operate in Mexico. Will Cuba continue to help the M-19 or other terrorist groups? How are the relations between Colombia and Cuba? Has the mediation of author Garcia Marquez contributed to an improvement in these relations? What commitment has Colombia acquired as a result of the Cuban change of attitude?

Betancur: Since we do not have relations with Cuba and in view of Colombia's recent international positions, our government is very discreet in referring to the position of other nations, especially when they are part of the fraternal Latin American bloc.

I know that there is goodwill in many places, especially toward Colombia, and we must appreciate every gesture or action that demonstrates such goodwill. As for Gabriel Garcia Marquez -- and setting aside our old friendship -- it can only be said that he, as a good Colombian who has brought honor to Colombia in the world, takes every opportunity to consolidate peace in his fatherland, aware of the fact that without that peace, our development would be indefinitely and dangerously postponed.

Montaner: Reports of links between Colombian drug traffickers and the Cuban authorities have been published throughout the world. What does the Colombian Government know about this issue?

Betancur: I have no information on this controversial subject. One of the reasons is that the drug-trafficking problem is too grave and far too complex to dilute or mask by tossing it in with other ingredients that could weaken the already uneven struggle we are waging. Drug-trafficking will continue to ruin us morally, with or without politics, as long as the giant U.S. market for drugs exists.

Montaner: Your Government has decided to play an active role in the Central American crisis, but it has stated neither its general view of the conflict nor the hypothesis upon which it bases its actions. The United States, on the other hand, bases its hostility toward the Managua government and its support for El Salvador on the premise -- fed by intelligence reports and analyses by strategists -- that while it is true that there is notorious social injustice in the area, what really keeps the guerrillas going is the Cuban-Soviet offensive, which is intended to destabilize the United States' "fourth border," to benefit the Eastern interests. Does your government share or reject this assessment? What are the foundations of Colombian foreign policy?

Betancur: The countries that comprise the "Contadora Group" want to ensure that the Central American conflict is not internationalized, so that the aggressive character of a struggle between the two big blocs can be avoided in a region that has its own means of solution. We have too many dramas and economic and social needs of our own. It would be senseless and unjust to add to these a strange fabric of ideologies that, at the moment of truth, manifest themselves in the shape of more hunger and impoverishing arms races.

Montaner: Colombia has become a member of the Nonaligned Movement. What is your government's objective with this diplomatic position?

Betancur: International politics grows more complex and fluid every day. Countries often find themselves the passive recipients of decisions made at the big power centers, and they often find out about what has been decided for them -- which usually results in more economic and social problems for them -- when it is too late. This is why organizations like the Nonaligned Movement were created. Thus, it is only logical that we should be there, not only to listen, but to be heard and to make ourselves known in places other than books and maps. In this turbulent era one must be well informed, at least, and this is accomplished by joining organizations like the Nonaligned Movement, which has received us as a plenipotentiary member -- that is, as a member with full rights.

M-19 LEADER ARRESTED BY MILITARY INTELLIGENCE

PA170319 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] A 19 April Movement [M-19] leader was arrested today by military intelligence during an operation in Florencia, Caqueta. The M-19 leader is Fabio Batiz Oviedo, alias Hamilton, one of the subversive movement's most important strategists. It is believed that he was one of the men in charge of the occupation of Paujil on Monday.

ARMY CHIEF ON BID TO CREATE REBEL REPUBLIC

PA151646 Paris AFP in Spanish 1626 GMT 13 May 83

[Text] Bogota, 13 May (AFP) -- The Colombian Armed Forces claimed today that the communist guerrillas have failed in their bid to create the "Independent Republic of Amazonia" in the country's southeast.

General Gustavo Matamoros, commander of the Colombian Armed Forces, told reporters of the CARACOL radio network that the communist guerrillas have been trying to achieve this objective for 2 years.

He explained that the operation began in [number indistinct] when Colombian, Costa Rican, and Panamanian members of the April 19 Movement (M-19), who had trained in Cuba, infiltrated the area.

"The Colombians and foreigners arrived with the intention of creating a free area covering Putumayo and Caqueta Departments but they now envision it as a much larger area covering the Amazon region," the officer said.

Gen Matamoros did not say, however, if any other guerrilla groups or international organizations besides the M-19 support the frustrated Republic of Amazonia.

He stressed that "the new idea they have is to create a free zone in the Amazon region that would be in criminal hands."

"The Sutatenza radio network reported several weeks ago that the creation of this republic was mentioned in a Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (communist) document that was seized by the Army.

SPANISH PRIME MINISTER, KING TO VISIT CARTAGENA

PA172231 Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Bogota -- The Foreign Relations Ministry confirmed today that Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez will arrive in Colombia on 31 May, followed by King Juan Carlos on 1 July [dates as heard].

The Spanish Prime Minister and the prince of Asturias will attend the commemoration of Cartagena's 450th anniversary. While here, they will meet with the Latin American foreign ministers, who have also been invited to the celebration being sponsored by Colombia.

The Latin American meeting will take place 1-3 July and will be presided over by Colombian President Belisario Betancur.

An inter-American declaration on the bicentennial of Liberator Simon Bolivar's birth is expected to be signed as a result.

BELIZE

OPPOSITION CRITICIZES PRICE'S U.S. VISIT

PA171608 Paris AFP in Spanish 1053 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Belmopan, Belize, 17 May (AFP) -- While official sectors consider Belizean Prime Minister George Price's visit to the United States to be beneficial to the country, harsh criticism has been heard from opposition sources in this capital.

One opposition weekly even said in its editorial that Price would discuss with U.S. President Ronald Reagan the establishment of a U.S. military base in Belize because the United States "wishes to transfer a training base from Panama in Belize." For their part, official sources have described Price's visit to the United States as "historic" and of "mutual benefit" to Belize and the United States.

Where U.S. economic aid to Belize is concerned, an official U.S. Embassy communique reported that the World Bank will extend $5.3 million for the reconstruction and improvement of roads, while official sources indicated that Reagan had pledged to give economic aid to Belize.

In this area, an opposition paper commented that one of Price's objectives was to ask Reagan for part of the sugar quota that was taken from Nicaragua in order to overcome Belize's sugar crisis, but that El Salvador, Honduras and Costa Rica "had carved it up among themselves and there was no share for Belize."

Similarly, Belizean opposition weeklies all dismissed the importance of Price's trip to the United States, saying that the U.S. press and television paid little attention to the prime minister's meeting with Reagan, about which "the newscasts reported little or nothing."

It was reported here that another of the topics that Price discussed with the U.S. President was the conflict with Guatemala, which has continued to claim a part of Belizean territory. According to the reports, Price asked Reagan to use his influence with Great Britain to ensure that British troops will remain in Belize until the problem is resolved.

In Washington, U.S. sources said last week that the United States shares the wishes of the Belizean authorities in this regard, after admitting that "for the moment no solution is in sight."

During his visit, Price also met with Thomas Enders, assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, and with Jeane Kirkpatrick, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, but the topics discussed in these meetings have not been released.

The same opposition sectors in Belize criticized the tour that Price is currently making of various cities in New York State, where most of the 30,000 Belizeans who are established in the United States reside. The opposition described this as a "political campaign."

General elections will be held next year in Belize, a former British colony, which has been independent only since 1981.

COSTA RICA

PLANS FOR POSSIBLE NICARAGUAN BORDER CLOSING

PA171455 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] The government is studying two alternate routes in case there is an eventual closing of the border with Nicaragua. This announcement was made by Economy and Commerce Minister Marco Antonio Lopez Aguero.

He said that one of the alternate routes would be the Atlantic, using Puerto Limon, as well as Matias de Galvez Port, in Guatemala. The ships would use the (Pan-Atlantic), (Cinam) and (CGT) routes. The minister said that the other alternate route would include the use of Caldera and San Juan Port, in Guatemala, on the Pacific side. A contract would be signed with (Midfleming), a sudsidiary of Development Corporation, Inc. for the use of its ships.

PAPER CLAIMS ANTI-SANDINISTS SUPPLIED BY AIR

PA172305 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] In a new report on what is happening on the Costa Rican-Nicaraguan border, the San Jose newspaper LA PRENSA LIBRE has charged that the counterrevolutionary forces led by traitor Eden Pastora are receiving arms, ammunition and supplies by air. The newspaper added that a landing strip on a Costa Rican farm that is owned by a U.S. citizen is used for this operation.

LA PRENSA LIBRE added that planes and helicopters are used to supply both the anti-Sandinists who are still in the Costa Rican camps and those who have already infiltrated into Nicaragua. The newspaper stresses that, despite continual intrusions, the Costa Rican-Nicaraguan border area is under the control of the Sandinist People's Army.

EL SALVADOR

PDC'S DUARTE CRITICIZES MAGANA'S GOVERNMENT

PA170220 San Salvador Radio Cadena Central in Spanish 1800 GMT 16 May 83

[Text] Jose Napoleon Duarte, Christian Democratic Party (PDC) president and the party's presidential candidate, has said that during its first year in power Alvaro Magana's government has been incapable of governing. Rather, it has survived at best and has not made the decisions or taken the actions that the country needs to overcome its current situation.

The PDC political leader was asked his opinion of the first year accomplishments of the government of national unity, which was created by the Apaneca Pact to solve our country's economic, social, and political crisis. He said that the lack of definite decisions reflects the fact that the government consist of antagonistic forces, each bearing no overall responsibility.

Duarte said that the Salvadoran people's will was not respected when the majority group that it had elected for the Constituent Assembly, consisting of 23 PDC deputies, was not accepted. He charged that this amounted to a constitutional coup d'etat.

He added that the rightwing has been destroying all chances of reform, has tried to weaken agrarian reform peasant groups, has paralyzed justice and has disrupted and debased the nation's economy, making it impossible for President Magana to handle the situation.

Duarte also said that the government can only be expected to continue to survive, which is why elections have been called. They are the means of surviving for a while and of determining whether the country will permit, or live under, a state of fascism, which is what the extreme right wants.

AMNESTY LAW EFFECTED; 18 CASES RESPOND

PA180256 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2310 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] San Salvador, 17 May (ACAN-EFE) -- A military source reported today that in the last few hours 18 people have surrendered at the Guazapa and Aguilares military garrisons, north of San Salvador, to receive protection under the amnesty and citizen rehabilitation law.

According to the reports, the people who have requested protection under the amnesty law include four guerrillas, five members of leftist organizations, four women and five children. They are currently at the headquarters of the 1st Infantry Brigade in San Salvador.

The source added that they are seeking to relocate those who surrendered in areas far from where they lived, in order to give them protection, and that they will probably be transferred to farms in the agrarian reform sector.

The amnesty law was approved by the Constituent Assembly on 4 May; today, President Alvaro Magana swore in the amnesty commission that will investigate the cases of those who wish to avail themselves of protection under the decree.

HAVANA RADIO INTERVIEW WITH SALPRESS DIRECTOR

PA180018 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 May 83

[Interview given by Jose Ventura, director of SALPRESS, to Pedro Martinez Pirez in Havana, Cuba, date not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Martinez] Ventura, SALPRESS, Agencia Salvadorena de Prensa, was born in December 1980, and has been active for some years now. I would like to know how this Salvadoran press agency developed.

[Ventura] I recall that in December 1980 we had two typewriters and four companeros in Mexico who were charged with disseminating information on what was happening in El Salvador. This was a month before the general offensive began. Since then the agency has been growing, opening offices in several parts of the world, including Montreal and Toronto in Canada, Washington, Panama, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Ecuador, to disseminate all that is happening in the war of liberation being waged in El Salvador. The agency's current headquarters are in Mexico City, where we have 15 companeros involved in different tasks, including a published bulletin, daily dispatches and specials that we place in various world media.

In our correspondents office we have people who, though not professionals, have, with practice, prepared themselves and specialized in the area of information.

At this time, SALPRESS is an alternative agency that disseminates information all over the world on the political, social and military events affecting the Salvadoran people and several other Central American countries.

[Martinez] Do you have any correspondents in El Salvador?

[Ventura] Yes, this is another of SALPRESS' achievements. We now have five correspondents in El Salvador. Two are in the central area, the Modesto Ramirez Central Front, one is with the Feliciano Ama Western Front, one is with the Anastasio Aquino Paracentral Front and one is on the Francisco Sanchez Eastern Front. These companeros are responsible for getting the information that will be disseminated through the world's various media.

[Martinez] Ventura, does SALPRESS have contacts with the Nonaligned Movement?

[Ventura] I believe that another of our greatest achievements was when we joined the nonaligned countries' press agencies and were thus able to disseminate information to more than 80 countries from that point on. Right now, we are reaching almost 100 countries, largely because we are part of the nonaligned countries.

[Martinez] In addition to SALPRESS, what other means does the Salvadoran revolution have at its disposal to reveal the truth to the world?

[Ventura] That's an interesting question. The popular war being waged right now in El Salvador -- which is a small country, with only 21,000 square kms -- has two radio stations at the moment: Radio Farabundo Marti, which broadcasts from somewhere in Chalatenango, and Radio Venceremos, which broadcasts from Morazan Department. In addition, a radio station was recently created in the area of the Guazapa volcano, Radio Guazapa. There are also Agencia Independente de Prensa, AIP, and NOTISAL, which along with SALPRESS, disseminate information about the Salvadoran revolutionary process throughout the world.

These popular media serve as a source for foreign correspondents, who can then rapidly transmit fresh information on political and military events in El Salvador.

[Martinez] What about movies; have the Salvadoran revolutionaries done something in that area?

[Ventura] Yes, we have created several film organizations, such as the Revolutionary Salvadoran Cinematographic Focus [El Punto Cinematografico El Salvador Revolutionario] and the Zero to the Left [Cero a la Izquierda], which have been important in making several films that have earned international prizes. Through them, we have been able to disseminate the true image of what is going on in El Salvador. It is also of note that two Salvadoran films -- "The People Will Win" and "Morazan's Letter" -- have won several prizes in Havana.

[Martinez] To what do you attribute the development of the Salvadoran people's news media?

[Ventura] We attribute it to the support that the Salvadoran revolution has among the people and to the fact that the media are inside the areas politically and militarily controlled by the FMLN. This permits these media to take root and to disseminate all of the information. If we didn't have the people's support, our media could hardly survive.

The Salvadoran Government's military regime has not been able to develop a world information medium because it doesn't have popular support. In turn, we can say that we have such media because we have the people's support.

RADIO VENCEREMOS PROTESTS ARREST OF 'COMPANEROS'

PA172022 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Radio Venceremos has received the following communique in connection with the arrest of seven companeros in San Jose, Costa Rica.

That on 17 June, a Costa Rican court will open a political trial against seven members of the FMLN-FDR, charged with international crimes. In view of the above, the Oscar Arnulfo Romero Committee of Mothers and Relatives of Political, Missing, and Murdered Prisoners of El Salvador, and the Committee of Political Prisoners of Costa Rica charges that:

Argentine (Jose Esbezi Maldonado), 34; Salvadoran (Maria del Carmen Rivera Argueta), 24; Salvadoran (Jose Navas Estupinan), 34; Nicaraguan (Juan Carlos Murillo Guerrero), 34; Ecuadorean (Eloy Manuel Ibarra Flores), 35; Salvadoran (Miguel Angel Moreno Garcia), 34; and Costa Rican (Sergio Hernandez Santos), 34; have been held since 11 March 1982 at La Reforma prison of San Jose.

That they have all been subjected to the most cruel tortures by ranking members of the Judicial Investigation Agency, OIJ, the Costa Rican political police, which has strong connections with the Salvadoran, Honduran, Guatemalan and southern cone repressive dictatorships.

That such tortures, having been fully confirmed by forensic personnel of the OIJ, have not been investigated by the authorities, nor have the perpetrators been punished.

That through a slanderous publicity campaign, the most reactionary sectors of Costa Rica have tried to present the prisoners as dangerous international terrorists who want to attack Costa Rican democracy.

That the prisoners risk being condemned despite the many pronouncements and reiterated appeals by international organizations made to the Costa Rican authorities.

That none of the prisoners has ever participated in any activity that could be considered an offense against the existing laws of the country. We affirm that all the prisoners, both Salvadoran patriots and internationalists, were in Costa Rica trying to gain support for the heroic struggle of the Salvadoran people against one of the most ferocious dictatorships of the continent.

That seven patriots and antifascist fighters are not only being accused, but an attitude of open complicity has been adopted with the Salvadoran regime, which every day is further isolated by all the peoples of the world who truly respect human rights.

We exhort all the truly democratic sectors of Central America and the Caribbean; the organizations rallying for respect for human rights; the workers, peasants, students, and professionals; and all those who consider the Salvadoran people's struggle to be their own to publicly demand the immediate release of all the prisoners.

We invite the news media to attend the trial on 17 March and accompany the international jurists delegation that will be in Costa Rica to guarantee the impartial development of the trial.

HONDURAS

GOVERNMENT SAYS NICARAGUA PREPARING ATTACK

PA180218 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2353 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 17 May (ACAN-EFE) -- The Honduran Government expressed "fear" today that Nicaragua is preparing to launch a military attack on Honduras and other Central American neighbors. An official communique issued by the Honduran Government declared that Nicaragua has broken the military balance in Central America and now has an army that is superior to those of all countries of the isthmus, including Panama and Belize.

The Honduran Government criticized the fact that Nicaragua refuses to participate in a dialogue for peace in Central America and is opposed to the supervision of its border with Costa Rica by an international force, as well as to the international supervision of ports and airports proposed by Honduras, a general disarmament, a permanent dialogue, respect for borders, attention to refugee affairs, a reduction in the number of foreign advisers and an end to arms trafficking.

"This situation," the Honduran Government says, "can only lead us to conclude that Nicaragua, which is trying to build a force of 200,000 men in arms, is preparing to launch an attack on Honduras and other neighboring countries."

As military information, the Honduran Government reported that Nicaragua's ground, sea and air forces and Interior Ministry troops total 119,000 men. In addition it has two battalions of T-55 heavy Soviet tanks, a battalion of armored vehicles and the offer from South Yemen of Soviet MIG-17 aircraft.

It is also reported that Nicaragua hopes to have some 200,000 men in arms, that it has 850 troop carriers made in the GDR and a battalion of armored cars, in addition to 17,000 foreign advisers.

"This buildup is interpreted as a provocation and an act intended to intimidate neighboring countries, creating uncertainty and insecurity in the Central American region," the Honduran Government said.

It added that Nicaragua is the "destabilizing factor" in the area and that it is also trying to export its revolution, which is "subordinate" to Russia, Cuba and Libya.

The Honduran Government maintained that Nicaragua is conducting an ill-intentioned and biased campaign of misinformation against Honduras abroad based on constant and false accusations that are seeking to make the Hondurans look like warmongers and aggressors. "These constant accusations indicate that the Honduran Army has violated Nicaragua's borders, though the Managua regime has never presented any proof of this."

The Honduran Government stated that its air, sea and ground forces, including police, hardly amount to 17,500 men, that it only has one battalion of light tanks and that despite this, Nicaragua contends that Honduras is a threat to its revolution. In conclusion, Honduras stressed that it will continue to fight for peace within the plan that it presented to the OAS on 23 March.

NICARAGUA

MIGUEL D'ESCOTO ADDRESSES UN SECURITY COUNCIL

PA171459 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] United Nations -- Nicaragua emphatically warned yesterday that if the Security Council does not assert its authority, Nicaragua cannot be asked to relinquish indefinitely the use of its right to legitimate defense. Speaking to the UN Security Council, Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto reiterated Nicaragua's desire to achieve peace through political, peaceful and negotiated means. Reiterating that Nicaragua wants peace, the foreign minister said that since it hates war, his government has once again come to the council to make known the aggressions against Nicaragua by the Reagan administration with the complicity of the Honduran Government and Army.

D'Escoto said that Nicaragua cannot by its own means persuade Honduras of the importance of a frank and constructive dialogue to end the serious situation between the two countries. Honduras, he stressed, insists on turning a deaf ear, and disregards the initiatives of Latin American rulers who have proposed a dialogue, which the Nonaligned Movement has also requested.

Therefore, the Security Council has the inescapable obligation of assuming its responsibility in the face of these events, regardless of the will of one of its members which, due to the fact that it is economically and militarily powerful, believes it is exempt from the obligation of having its actions fall under the principles and norms that must be respected by the UN members, Foreign Minister D'Escoto said in clear reference to the United States.

BORGE RECEIVES MEXICAN COMMUNICATIONS SECRETARY

PA170315 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 16 May 83

[Text] We are satisfied with the continuity of Mexico's foreign policy, which has become an example of what Latin American policy should be, Tomas Borge, commander of the revolution and interior minister, said after a meeting he held with Mexican Communications and Transport Secretary Rodolfo Felix Valdes this weekend. Commander Borge briefly summarized the communications situation in Nicaragua for the Mexican secretary, emphasizing that achievements in communications are due primarily to the united effort of the workers. The Sandinist leader added that we are only beginning to work in this field, but we are certain that some of our experiences might contribute to a Central American communications meeting that will be held in the near future, despite our scant technical knowledge.

Technical Aid Agreement Signed

PA170010 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 May 83

[Text] Mexico and Nicaragua signed a technical cooperation agreement this weekend within the framework of Mexican solidarity with the Sandinist people's revolution. The agreement was signed by revolutionary Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra, coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, and by Mexican Communications and Transport Secretary Rodolfo Felix Valdes. It was also signed by Enrique Schmidt, Carlos Zarruk and Mauricio Valenzuela, the Nicaraguan ministers of Telcor [Telecommunications and Postal Services Institute] transportation and construction, respectively.

The technical cooperation agreement provides for the supply of equipment and material and mutual cooperation on specific Transportation Ministry and Construction Ministry projects by the Mexican Government.

FRG'S WISCHNEWSKI ENDS VISIT 15 MAY AFTER TALKS

PA170125 Paris AFP in Spanish 2126 GMT 16 May 83

[Text] Managua, 16 May (AFP) -- After holding several meetings with representatives of various Nicaraguan political sectors, Hans-Jurgen Wischnewski, vice president of the Social Democratic Party of the FRG, left Managua last night.

The politician expressed support for the efforts to secure peace in the Central American region undertaken by the Contadora Group, composed of Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia, and Panama, which has been mediating in the tense regional situation. Wischnewski criticized the reduction of Nicaragua's sugar quota announced last week by the U.S. Government.

The Social Democratic leader met with Nicaraguan Government leaders, including Commander Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the government junta, and with the coordinator of the FSLN Political Committee [Bayardo Arce]. He also held talks with leaders of several parties and private enterprise sectors, which he described as "very interesting."

Statement at Departure

DW170939 Hamburg ARD Television Network in German 1930 GMT 16 May 83

[Statement by SPD Presidium Member Hans-Juergen Wischnewski in Managua summing up his talk with the Sandinista top leadership -- recorded]

[Text] We pointed out in no uncertain terms that political pluralism and nonalignment are of absolutely decisive significance as far as we are concerned. I believe that they are making efforts to this end. We also were able to clarify several humanitarian cases in excellent cooperation.

It is of decisive importance that people who muster understanding for the revolution in Nicaragua, but who advocate democracy and nonalignment, time and again are prepared to hold discussions with the politically responsible people here.

STATE COUNCIL MEETINGS POSTPONED UNTIL 25 MAY

PA170330 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 16 May 83

[Text] The first regular session of the fourth legislative period of the State Council was suspended today because of reasons beyond control, said Deputy Commander Rafael Solis Cerda, secretary of this legislative body. There are basic reasons for the leaders of the State Council to postpone the meeting until 25 May. Among them is the importance of the discussion of the political parties law, the housing law and the reading of the report on the activities held during recess. Another reason, said Solis Cerda, is that Commander Carlos Nunez, State Council Chairman, is outside the country and his presence is considered important because of the subjects on the first day's agenda.

10 ANTI-SANDINISTS KILLED IN NUEVA SEGOVIA

PA171832 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] The Defense Ministry has reported that on 13 May, 10 counterrevolutionaries who had entered Nicaragua through the sector of Portillo Hondo, 14 km northwest of San Fernando, Nueva Segovia Department were killed in fighting with Sandinist People's Army [EPS] forces.

A communique stated that the same day a group of former Somozist guardsmen tried to enter Nicaraguan territory by crossing the Coco River. They attacked Waspam in northern Zelaya. EPS Second Lieutenant Hector Rodriguez was killed in the attack, which was repelled. On Saturday, 14 May, the counterrevolutionaries used mortar fire to attack the town of (Liwascarma) from Honduran territory. Sandinist soldier Carlos Cabina was killed in this action, the official report added.

MINISTRY OFFICIAL CITED ON BORDER ACTIONS

PA172239 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Commander David Blanco, a Nicaraguan Interior Ministry representative, has reported that the arrest of 36 former Somozist guards prevented the creation of an internal counterrevolutionary front in Leon and Chinandega Departments. During actions carried out on 12 May, ammunition and arms of various types were taken from the invaders, including C-3 and C-4 explosives, dynamite, LAWS rockets and Chinese-made AK rifles.

According to other reports, five counterrevolutionaries and two members of the Sandinist People's Army died in three clashes in Nueva Segovia and Zelaya Departments over the last weekend. These departments are on the Honduran border. At the same time, the Sandinist forces intercepted some 500 counterrevolutionaries in Llanos Bawisa and in Zelaya Norte Department and forced them to return to Honduras.

COSTA RICAN DELEGATION ARRIVES FOR TALKS

PA171518 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] A delegation of the Costa Rican Government' Security Council arrived at Managua's Sandino Airport last night. It was welcomed by Rodrigo Reyes, minister-secretary of the government junta; Brigade Commander Rene Vivas, deputy interior minister; Dr Moises Hassan, deputy interior minister; Dr Carlos Arguello, deputy justice minister; Guerrilla Commander (Alberto Calderon), representing the Sandinist People's Army; Rogelio Ramirez, Nicaraguan ambassador to Costa Rica; Jesus Manuel Fernandez, Costa Rican ambassador to Nicaragua; and Jose Leon Talavera of the FSLN International Relations Department.

The Costa Rican Security Council delegation is made up Enrique Chacon, deputy government minister; (Jorge E. Rojas), deputy justice minister; Johnny Campos, deputy security minister; (Alder Antillon), deputy foreign minister; and Manuel Carballo, deputy minister of the presidency.

Carballo said that following the meeting between Government Junta Member Sergio Ramirez and Costa Rican Vice President Alberto Fait, they decided to have the joint Nicaraguan-Costa Rican commission work at the ministerial level to find a solution to the current problems.

NEW PROPERTY TAX IMPOSED ON CITIZENS, FOREIGNERS

PA170328 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 16 May 83

[Text] The Nicaraguan Government has issued a new property tax law that abolishes the patriotic contributions law and the earlier property tax. This was revealed today at a news conference by Finance Minister Joaquin Cuadra, who added that all citizens living in the country whose net property value is 50,000 cordobas or less and all foreign residents or foreign companies, regardless of the amount of their net property in Nicaragua, will be subject to this tax. Cuadra said that the returns on the new tax are due 1 October 1983 and that the tax will be paid annually in two installments. The internal revenue department expects to collect more than 300 million cordobas a year with the new tax.

BARRICADA REPORTS ON RADIO 'OFFENSIVE'

PA171941 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 16 May 83 p 3

[Article by Xavier Reyes Alba: "Radiophonic Aggression, Another Imperialist Wave"]

[Text] Some 20 long- and shortwave radio stations from Honduras and Costa Rica bombard Nicaraguan territory daily in what is the most large-scale propaganda offensive ever launched at any territory in America except Cuba.

It is a constant violation of our nation's sovereignty, and a vital part of the imperialist aggression that has results comparable to the bullets that they are firing at our patriotic defenders.

We can recall two recent cases: the campaign launched by the U.S. administrations aganist Cuba almost from the very beginning of the revolution in 1959, and the campaign that, with Falklands Radio as the axis, was launched at the Argentine defenders in the Malvinas.

In both cases, millions of dollars were invested in electronic equipment, as well as for experts in electronic espionage. The CIA has departments that specialize in creating radiobroadcasting networks to fulfill its objectives of broadcasting terrorist messages and misinformation to specific population sectors. Radio Marti and the "Free Europe" are the most brazen examples of how the CIA uses communications as a spearhead for armed aggression.

Nicaragua has been pointing out for the past 3 years the unusual, orchestrated development of radio station power in Tegucigalpa and San Jose. Since then, those countries have not only improved their equipment, but have also increased the number of repeaters (station to raise and amplify the transmission) in the Nicaraguan border area.

This includes the imporvement of the HRN [call sign for Voz de Honduras] network (which is made up of that station and 10 others), in which the most reactionary capital and interests of Honduras are involved. In addition, new stations cropped up in southern Honduras, and different programs that seek to "fight communism" and that sing odes to private property and to Honduran democracy began to bombard the Departments of Chinandega, Esteli, Madriz, Jinotega, Nueva Segovia and northern Zelaya.

To the south, Radio Reloj, Radio Columbia and Radio Monumental increased their power, and in unison upheld political positions in line with those of the counterrevolutionary groups that were being born abroad.

In San Carlos, Rio San Juan Department, Channel 2 (Telenac) of San Jose is received more clearly than local stations. This is a channel with few advertisements that is full of the canned programs from which we are gradually becoming liberated.

It is worthy of note that the war and violence programs -- in which the combat patrols of Vic Morrow and Rick Jason are the classical winners -- that exalt the values and ideological concepts of the U.S. "winners" have increased in Costa Rican programming, which contradicts the much-vaunted peace annoucements of our neighbor to the south.

With the period of technological improvement completed, the CIA went on to a second phase, which coincided with the launching of large-scale aggression. The listener on the border has no difficulty in noting the coordination that exists between the counterrevolutionaries and their clandestine radio stations and the legal, public radio stations that act as sounding boards for their communiques and reports.

In general, the counterrevolutionary organizations issue their communqiues and reports in Tegucigalpa and San Jose. They are immediately distributed to "friendly" radio stations and newsmen who, even before these communiques are reproduced by the counterrevolutionary shortwave radio stations, release them to one newscast or another, with the exclusivity that is characteristic of the capitalistic competition of our neighbors.

The third step in this process is the launching to the world of the same information, after it is retouched and placed in context, by the correspondents of the capitialist agencies.

Nicaragua, which inherited a poor radio infrastructure -- the most backward one in Central America -- and on the basis of it developed a revolutionary programming without the intention of harming our neighbours or exporting our exporting our ideas, has a less powerful radio network than those that our neighbors have organized.

Two radio stations are truly nationwide in scope -- Radio Sandino and La Voz de Nicaragua -- and there are radios in all the departments that have only regional power. There is Radio 13 de Octubre in San Carlos, and Rivas has its radio station with a few kilowatts of power.

Nueva Segovia has Radio Segovia; Jinotega, Radio Pancasan; Chinandega, Radio 19 de Julio; and there is a radio station in La Tronquera for northern Zelaya.

Despite all this, a movement has been started in Costa Rica to establish highly powered radio stations in the border areas because Nicaragua "is using its radio stations to attack the northern areas" of Costa Rica. Honduras has made similar claims and plans to install more repeaters in Choluteca and a radio station in Mokoron.

Moreover, it is no coincidence that the U.S. Government has received the permission of the Suazo Cordova government to install a 100-kilowatt radio station on the Roatan Islands to serve as a Voice of America repeater. All of this seeks to improve the image of the counterrevolutionaries with false reports, and to try to recruit peasants, among other equally impossible objectives.

ORTEGA REMARKS ON RECENT FIGHTING, U.S. POLICIES

PA141505 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0130 GMT 14 May 83

["Face the People" program, held at the Alesio Blandon Teachers School in Managua, with Junta Coordinator Daniel Ortega Saavedra; junta members Sergio Ramirez Mercado and Rafael Cordova Rivas; Rodrigo Reyes, minister-secretary of the government junta; Guerrilla Commander Leticia Herrera, secretary general of the Sandinist Defense Committees, CDS; Carlos Carrion, general coordinator of the 19 July Sandinist Youth; Darma Lila Carrasquilla, representing the FSLN and the FSLN State Committee; Deputy Justice Minister Carlos Arguello; Captain Roberto Sanchez, chief of Defense Ministry public and foreign relations; Manuel Espinoza Henriquez, director general of the Directorate of Dissemination and Press of the government junta; Captain Federico Cedra, official in charge of the mobilization and organization of the reserves; First Lieutenant (Oscar Mojica) from the Defense Ministry; Labor Minister Virgilio Godoy; Lucio Jimenez, official in charge of the Nicaraguan Labor Coordination Organization, Sub-Commander (Edwin Cordero), Interior Ministry regional representative; Perfecto Arroliga, Managua CDS representative to the State Council; and Santos Buitrago and Chepita Silva representing the Association of Mothers of Heroes and Martyrs -- live]

[Excerpts] [Daniel Ortega] Good evening companeros. In this "Face the People" program we bring a fraternal embrace from the FSLN National Directorate and the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, especially to the mothers and family of the fighters who died before 19 July 1979 and those who have died after 19 July 1979.

Frankly, we find ourselves facing an aggression that has come to confirm that our struggle, the struggle of the Nicaraguan people, is one that has not ended; a struggle that began many, many years ago; that began at the exact time when the Spanish conquistadors arrived in our lands to dominate and exploit, to steal the culture of our Indian ancestors; a struggle that continued throughout our history against the Spanish domination, achieving our independence in 1821; and later, a constant struggle against Yankee intervention.

The actions that the U.S. Government is currently promoting against Nicaragua are nothing new in Nicaraguan history. They are a continuation of the aggressions that the United States has been launching against the people of Nicaragua. How can we forget that immediately following the independence, only a few years later -- in the year 1855 through 1857 -- we had to face the Yankee invador that wanted to add Nicaragua and Central America to the United States. We had to face and defeat William Walker and his gang of murderers. Throughout our history we have had to face the various U.S. Marine interventions; in 1902, in the Sandino days back in 1926 and 1927. How can we forget all this?

We were still fighting U.S. aggressive policy when we fought against Somoza. To fight Somoza was to fight U.S. aggressive policy, which created Somoza and the Somozist guard, supplying them with arms.

Many Nicaraguan brothers fell in the struggle against the Somozist dictatorship. Many of our brother warriors fell in the struggle led by the FSLN.

Here are some mothers of Sandinist brother warriors who fell before 19 July. As we were saying, on 19 July we obtained a very important victory -- the people's victory. But the struggle continues, because aggression continues; because the United States, the U.S. Government and President Reagan continue with the same aggressive policy. They are repeating the same policy that in the year 1855 someone who thought and acted the same as President Reagan tried to impose on Nicaragua. That was William Walker. He came to murder Nicaraguans and to burn our cities. He did not bring progress. He did not come to help the people. He came to murder and hurt the people. He came to try to subdue this country. Today President Reagan is continuing that type of policy. At the price of what? At the price of more blood, more pain and more sacrifice for the people.

We are here today with you to talk a little, to listen to you, so that we can talk of the whole situation and other problems you wish to discuss. We are holding these talks in a situation we could term as one of confrontation with the aggression of the United States, of the U.S. Government; at a time when the Somozist guardsmen armed by the U.S. Government are continuing their criminal activities, and the Nicaraguan people are heroically defending themselves with great determination and courage against the Somozist aggression.

Precisely today ... [changes thought] Do you know that the Somozist guardsmen have grouped in organizations that in military terms they call task forces? The task force is typical U.S. terminology used by the U.S. Armed Forces. These forces have somewhat special and unique characteristics. This is what these groups of Somozist guardsmen are called. These task forces are commanded by officers of the Somozist National Guard. Some of these officers are free because of the generous attitude of the revolution, which allowed them to leave the country after they took refuge in an embassy or with the Red Cross. Some were even in jail, but they managed to get out in some way, flouting our laws. Well, there we have the Somozist guardsmen, the sons of President Reagan. Well, there they are: Two task forces. Each task force has approximately 250 Somozist guardsmen. If they have two task forces, that means they have 500 Somozist guardsmen; 500 Somozist guardsmen invading our country, who are launching constant attacks from Honduran territory. When we defeat them, they return to Honduran territory. There they regroup again, they receive more arms, they are treated in hospitals; they have the Honduran Army's full support with the complicity of the Honduran Government.

This time it was in the area of a place called Llanos Bawisa, in northern Zelaya. It is pretty close to the border, close to La Tronquera, to a place called La Tronquera which is close to the border. It was in this area. The two task forces entered and tried to penetrate deeper. They have already been contained by the men of the Sandinist Peoples Army [EPS] who were in the area. The EPS soldiers engaged them in combat since this morning, and these forces have been contained. For sure we are going to defeat them, and then they will return to Honduras, leaving behind some dead and taking with them some wounded. There they are regrouped and armed again. This is the kind of struggle we are having as result of President Reagan's policy.

Today we are announcing in a communique issued by the the Defense Ministry that from 6 to 11 May there were several clashes in Rio San Juan Department, in the sector of Rio Indio.

The objective of those who on behalf of the United States are carrying out these operations -- the people of the CIA and the U.S. military personnel, who are behind all this -- is to use Costa Rican territory as they have done in Honduras, using its territory to keep throwing the Somozist guardsmen against our people, these counterrevolutionaries who are mostly Somozist guardsmen, who have gathered for this aggression.

Let us see who are they, the Somozist guardsmen, the traitor Pastora and Robelo. We know what to expect from the Somozist guardsmen. The traitor Pastora had the desire and the courage to struggle against Somoza, but when he realized that we had to struggle against the Yankee aggressiveness, then he was scared and he joined the Somozist guardsmen and placed himself at the service of the Yankees. He did just like Moncada. Moncada struggled against the conservative government of the time in that famous revolution that Sandino supported. But when the Yankees came, then Moncada got scared of the Yankees, and there Moncada faltered. In other words, Moncada had the courage to rise up in arms and make his revolution, which Sandino immediately supported. However, upon the entry of the Yankees, who invaded the country to defend the conservatives or seek a way to reach an agreement for the conservatives, Moncada betrayed the people and signed that famous pact that we know as the Blackthorn Pact. The Yankees sat the conservatives and the liberals down and the matter was settled. Moncada committed a betrayal. Sandino did not commit a betrayal. Sandino said: I prefer to die fighting than to live as a slave, and he rose up to fight against the Yankees also.

That is the same story now. We fought against Somoza, who was an instrument of the Yankees here; and in the struggle against Somoza, a lot of people joined in, some with mere noise and some with more of contribution to the struggle. Some didn't do very much, but they joined in the struggle against Somoza. Some, like Robelo, joined in the struggle against Somoza.

When we defeated Somoza and they saw that it was necessary to continue to fight if we wanted to defend the country's sovereignty, that it was necessary to fight against the Yankees, some of them began to run. Those who have fled are the Moncadas, the Pastoras, the Robelos. They are Moncadas, and they went to join up with whom? With the guardsmen. And who remains? The Nicaraguan people, the sons of Sandino, the Nicaraguan people. We have continued to fight, to defend the nation's integrity, to defend the fatherland, to defend the revolution.

That is why we say that those who are launching those attacks in the San Juan River zone are men of the traitor Pastora, also Somozist guardsmen, all of them together. The same thing they are doing from Honduras, they are trying to do now from Costa Rica. From 6 to 11 May, there was a series of clashes there, mainly in the sector of Rio Indio, south of Bluefields, in the direction of the San Juan River... [corrects himself] of San Juan del Norte. In these clashes the Somozist counterrevolutionaries lost 25 men. We recovered some AK and FAL rifles. Notice that they are using exactly the same weapons that are being used by those coming from Honduras. Why? Because the source of the weapons is the same. It is the United States. It is the CIA. We seized the AK's, knapsacks and 12,000 colones. This confirms how these people are supporting themselves to launch their incursions.

Thus we continue to face the aggressive policy of the United States, an irrational, absurd policy; a disrespectful policy. Despite all the efforts that we have made to find a way to talk with the United States and reach an agreement, they respond with the language of bullets. We have to defend ourselves with weapons.

As I was saying, we felt that it was important to have this meeting with you today. It is important for the companeros who are listening over the radio and the companeros who see this program on television to listen to you who have been protagonists -- mothers and other relatives -- protagonists of this entire struggle of the Nicaraguan people, from before 19 July and now after 19 July, because we are in a continuous fight. We continue to be in a revolution. We continue to face the aggressors. However, the most important thing is that just as we had to go through many years, over 40 years of Somozism before we defeated Somozism -- over 20 years of struggle by the FSLN until we defeated Somozism -- today we have the same spirit of struggle, the same fighting struggle of Luis Buitrago, of Cesar Augusto Silva; the same fighting spirit of the companeros who fell before 19 July; Roger Nunez; Carlos Fonseca.

Let President Reagan, the guardsmen and the traitor Pastora forget their hopes of defeating this people. Another 20 years of those attacks may go by, those attacks from Honduran and Costa Rican territory. Our people have enough strength and high morale to spend another 20 or 40 years confronting and defeating them. [applause] [Crowd shouts: They shall not pass!]

The companeros have informed us that the two task forces which entered the North Atlantic area are retreating. They are returning to Honduras. They are split into three groups and are returning to Honduras. In this case, we have had the capacity to rapidly repel these aggressive actions from an estimated 500 counterrevolutionaries. They began this morning and by this time they are probably back in Honduras. They are there refreshing themselves, getting something to eat and being attended to by the Honduran guardsmen who are involved with them and the CIA officials who are over there directing all these operations. [Crowd shouts slogans]

[Moderator] We will now begin the question-and-answer period between our people -- the mothers and relatives of the heroes and martyrs and relatives of the mobilized companeros -- and the members of our revolutionary government. We will now proceed. The companero will pass the microphone. Please raise your hands and identify yourselves.

[Crowd shouts, "Revolution or Death, El Salvador Will Win." other slogans]

[Pacheco Silva] Companero Daniel Ortega, companeros of our government junta, all the brave and dedicated mothers who have gathered here today to present matters that are urgent to them: My name is Jose Pacheco Silva. I am a member of the CDS [Sandinist Defense Committees]. I am also very proud to be a militiaman. I have two children who are members of Sandinist Youth Battalion 3072 and I also have a son who was killed on 13 June in a trench at the beginning of the revolution.

Companeros, for me it is a pleasant source of pride to address you to indicate that we parents are strong and combative. We also have periodic meetings and I believe that at this time, our leadership knows that we have also urged other battalions to hold meetings also so that parents may learn to counteract divisionism and the actions of the internal counterrevolutionaries.

Companeros, I would like an emphatic answer to my question. We are facing an aggression from imperialism, which will never subdue us as it would like. We know that by reducing our sugar quota, they sought to make us yield through hunger. However, they do not know that we are accustomed to eating nothing but hard tortillas and we can do it again. [applause] [Crowd shouts, "They shall not pass"]

Companeros, today our children have marked the path for us to follow and we want our children, in the trenches where they risk their lives so that we parents can be happy, today we want to take up the rifles. [sentence as heard] We want to fight in the trenches. We want to support our children. What we did not do in the past we will do now. [shouting of slogans]

Therefore, companeros, we suggest, as parents, that arms be distributed to us within the CDS. We will make good use of them. We also want the directorate to realize that in the sectors the counterrevolutionaries have become emboldened. They are not cornering us, but rather they are giving us a standard in order to allow us to punish them harshly.

They must realize that the CDS and the parents will now take action. Let them realize that the rifle that the directorate will give us will be used knowledgeably. We urge the parents to join the reserve battalions, in which we will train in the militias on Saturdays. We will learn how to handle this rifle. Please let the directorate know that they will be properly used by the parents and we will dig our trenches and if possible, we will die there beside our children. [applause, shouting of slogans]

[Ramirez Mercado] We have just heard our companero express his willingness to participate in our defense efforts. This feeling is shared by the great majority parents whose children are participating in the revolution. I would like to comment on his remarks regarding the Yankee government's suspension of the sugar quota.

The Yankee government has taken an attitude toward Nicaragua that is the result of arrogance and prodominance. Mr Reagan and his advisers believe that their action can subdue the revolutionary government and the Nicaraguan people. Because of agreements it has with several Latin American countries, the United States buys our sugar at a price slightly higher than the international market price. We have been selling the United States 56,000 tons of sugar, which is 1.1 million quintales. We were selling this sugar to the U.S. market because Nicaragua has the right to sell its products in any market in the world, including the United States.

In the exercise of this right, we are protected by a number of international agreements and by laws of international organizations to which we belong, including the United Nations, the OAS, and the International Sugar Organization which, by the way, is currently meeting in Geneva. The Yankee government has shown contempt for and scorned all of these contracts and agreements so as to commit this illegal act of aggression against Nicaragua.

Undoubtedly, this is Mr Reagan's overbearing way of thinking, taking into account that the suspension of our sugar quota is connected to the military aggression, since in their view the two are merely pawns in the same game. They are thinking that in the future they will be able to pressure us or threaten us by shutting down the market for the beef that we export to the United States, for the seafood, the bananas, and all the products that we export to the United States.

But Nicaragua does not only sell its products to the U.S. market. That was the custom in Somoza's times. The revolution has been engaged in searching for other countries in which to sell those products. And now there are many countries that Nicaragua did not trade with before -- for example Iran, Libya, Iraq, and many other Arab countries, and the West European and the Socialist countries -- and we have no doubt that we will sell to other countries the sugar that the U.S. Government has banned from entering the United States. We are already making efforts to sell this sugar to other countries.

Therefore, this act of aggression is not going to leave us defenseless. We are in a position to respond to this aggression in the same way we respond to military aggression. We are also in a position to respond to any other kind of economic aggression because Nicaragua's strength at this time lies precisely in the fact that we have solid relations with different countries, with different types of countries; we trade with them and we have political and diplomatic ties with them. One of the strengths of the revolution lies in this, but imperialism cannot and does not want to understand this.

As for the sugar, this measure is not against the government nor against one sector of the country; it is a measure against the country itself, against the country's entire economy, and we have mentioned this to the private businessmen who also plant sugarcane and produce sugar in Nicaragua. Some of these businessmen, the largest private producer of sugar, for example, have protested this measure in a letter to the U.S. Government. Others, a Mr Gurdian, a landowner who is president of the Upanic [Union of Nicaraguan Agricultural-Livestock Producers] has said that the United States has every right to do this and does not have to consult Nicaragua before taking this step because the United States is a sovereign country. And these gentlemen claim that they are Nicaraguans. They say that they are Nicaraguans but in reality they are identified with the United States and their hearts are with the Yankees. They are not affected by this measure because they have taken their own measures so that economically, measures such as this will not affect them. We have heard that the Honduran sugar businessmen have congratulated the Yankee government for taking this measure because this increases their sugar quota.

What is important is that here, the Nicaraguan people are very clear -- the companero was just pointing that out -- this measure will not weaken or scare us. We are capable of answering back. We have countries that are in solidarity with Nicaragua that are also capable of giving their own responses.

The United States has already taken the wheat from us; you can remember that. Today, the French Government officially informed the Nicaraguan Government that they are donating 7,300 metric tons of wheat, and only a few weeks ago the Soviet Government informed the Nicaraguan Government of a donation of 15,000 metric tons of wheat. Therefore, we do have friends in the world -- countries in solidarity with Nicaragua capable of responding to U.S. aggressions -- and we are sure that there will also be friendly countries that will buy the sugar that we will not be able to sell to the U.S. and they will buy at prices as good as those preferencial prices at which we sold our sugar to the United States. [applause, shouting of slogans]

[Manzanares Rivera] Good evening, companero members of our government junta, companera secretary general of the CDS, all companeros, companera mothers of our heroes and martyrs. I am Simon Manzanares Rivera of Ducuali.

I have much to say but I will be brief to give a chance to the rest of mothers, brothers and so forth who want to participate in this Face the People program. I wish this program were longer. There is much to say, much to tell the reactionaries. Let them listen to me, look at me. Please focus the cameras on me. Let them take a good look at me. [applause, shouting of slogans] I want to be in full color because they are saying that they are going to cut out the tongues of CDS members because we talk too much. They say they are going to hang us. I am ready. [applause]

I am saying this in order to give courage to our CDS members some of whom, not all of them, have taken a cowardly position. Some have cowered lately because they are listening to those stations that are threatening us, but that will never convince the determined men and women of this nation. Let them know that we have more courage than any of the beasts on the other side of the border. Our women are braver than they.

Here is my question: [applause] What steps will our vanguard take to end, once and for all, the diversionism being created by certain churches? [applause] They include the Obandista [referring to Monsignor Miguel Obando y Bravo] Catholic church. We now have two Catholic churches; the Obandista Catholic church and the progressive Catholic church. I am telling you this because I challenged the churches in my neighborhood to voice their support for me once and for all. Only the progressive Catholic church voiced its support. For this reason, I tell you that the church has been divded just like God has been divided: the God of the rich and the God of the poor. In this case, I believe that the God of the poor is the one that reigns among these people who are the majority. Thank you. [applause and shouting of slogans]

[Moderator] Commander of the Revolution Ortega Saavedra will answer this question.

[Ortega Saavedra] We've listened to Companero Silvio Manzanares. [somebody whispers the right name and Ortega corrects himself] Simon Manzanares. In response to his question, we could say that the main role to fight this diversionist attitude is played by the organized people because we are fighting the phenomenon that certain priests who, just as Somoza used to do, persecute the repress the priests who are on the side of the people and the revolution.

I was saying at the beginning that we are in a new phase of the struggle. On 19 July we seized power. Before then we fought to seize power. We then seized power on that date and now we have to fight to defend this people's power. When we were fighting against Somoza's dictatorship, there were priests on Somoza's side. They were priests who were becoming wealthy by being on Somoza's side. They were priests who even held ranks in Somoza's guard. Some of them were majors, other colonels. You might remember that famous Father Leon Pallais, who was the rector of the Central America University. He was Somoza's cousin and he also held the rank of colonel which Somoza gave him. There were others like him. There were other priests who were on the side of the people. There were other priests and nuns who were on the people's side. Somoza persecuted those who were on the people's side. There were also certain bishops who didn't approve of priests who were on the people's side and they used to punish these priests because they were on the people's side.

But of course, officially within the church, nobody said anything about the priests who were involved with Somozism. Then you might recall the time when there were bishops who were very good friends with Somoza because he had the power to give his opinion, or Somoza was asked for his opinion when a bishop was to be appointed. Therefore, Somoza had many bishop friends.

When Somoza Garcia, the founder of the dictatorship died, executed by Rigoberto Lopez Perez, he was buried with honors as a prince of the church. Certain older people might remember this. I was still a child but I remember the big deal made about it. The older people will remember this very well: How the infamous Somoza Garcia, the founder of the dictatorship and the great criminal, was buried with honors as prince of the church.

We already mentioned this at the plaza: There are true Christians and there are others who claim to be Christians but who do not act as such. Therefore, we are facing this phenomenon. We now have a situation just like before, during the struggle against the Somoza dictatorship, when there were priests with different attitudes; some on the people's side, others on Somoza's. We now have a similar situation. Some are on the people's side, others on the side of the national guardsmen and the Yankees. They talk nonsense when the revolution takes certain measures which are just or when it makes some mistakes. We've never claimed that the revolution does not make mistakes. They take these opportunities to speak nonsense. However, they do not utter a single word when so many Nicaraguan brothers are falling, many of whom are Christians. They don't say a single word.

Therefore, what should we do in the face of these un-Christians attitudes: Well, what's left for us to do is to have a conscientious and organized attitude. The Christian people must have a Christian attitude because that is the true, just, and moral thing to do.

We have not lost the hope that some of them will become aware of this and change their attitude. We hope that they will realize that it is not Christian to support the guardsmen and to identify with the Somozist guardsmen. It is not Christian to keep quiet in the face of so many crimes. It is being accomplice of these crimes. It is not fair to behave that way.

The people's attitude can make them change their minds and assume a generous and fair stand. To the extent that they see an organized and conscientious people, and to the extent that they see the people demanding a correct attitude, then there is a possibility that some of them will come out in favor of the people. Perhaps there will be some who will never come out in favor of the people because, deep down, they do not love the people and are identified with other interests because this is the problem; after all, we are men and as men we might fall in love with certain interests. Therefore, when the time comes to choose between the rich exploiters and the Yankees and the poor working people who don't have the military strength or the Yankees' economic power, they out of cowardice and opportunism, side with the Yankees and the guardsmen. Some do that, they side with the guardsmen and the Yankess; others stay on the people's side.

However, there are examples which are permanent and which must affect those who are not proceeding correctly right now. Examples such as that of Gaspar Garcia Laviana, a priest who practiced what he preached; he fought on the people's side, wore the people's uniform in the FSLN, and died fighting with the people and for the people. These are the examples about which the minds of those who are not proceeding correctly must be refreshed. [applause, shouting of slogans]

[Espinoza Salazar] Good evening, everyone. My question is addressed particularly to Commander Ortega Saavedra. My name is Jorge Espinoza Salazar of the 1 May neighborhood. I am the father of one of the youths in Battalion 30-62. My concern, and that of most parents of 1 May neighborhood, is the following:

After our children spend 5 months in constant fighting against the Somozist beasts... [changes thought] naturally, the parents follow, step by step, the adventures of our children through their letters and through stories by members of Battalion 30-62. We have realized that our children are having quite a few health problems. Therefore, we want to ask Commander Ortega Saavedra, when our children will be demobilized. We believe that they need some rest. The others are hoping that their children will be home on 30 May, Mother's Day, even if they have to resume their combat against the Somozist beasts after they recover their energy. I believe that, in their current condition, it would be a mistake to keep them in the mountains. Thank you. [applause]

[Cerda] Good evening, companeros. I am Captain Federico Cerda, chief of the army's Mobilization Directorate. I'll answer the companero's question in the following way: The army is analyzing the situation on the various fronts and the size of the various counterrevolutionary forces that have attacked our country and revolution. We are in the process of analyzing and reviewing the time which the reserve battalions -- not only the Sandinist Youth battalions have been at the various war fronts for more than 3 or 4 months -- [changes thought] ...but we are making an analysis trying to find a formula to move out the companeros of the Sandinist Youth and the different battalions who are at the war fronts. In the next few weeks, through the right channels, we will announce the exact date on which the Sandinist Youth battalions that are scattered in the various fronts will return to Managua.

We must note that, in the past 2 months, the army has been seriously concerned over an effort to pull the members of the Sandinist Youth from the fronts, in particular, as requested by the National Directorate. However, the situation at the various fronts... [change thought] the Sandinist Youth companeros who, by the way, are very courageous, are way up in the mountains and their situation is very dangerous because they are watching over some fronts. We have been worried about this for several months and we will soon announce, through Companero Carrion and the army channels, when these companeros will come down. [applause and shouting of slogans]

[Moderator] Now Companero Carlos Carrion will speak.

[Carlos Carrion] I wanted to add to what Companero Capt Cerda said. He noted that all of us are certainly very worried about the health of the companerios who have been mobilized, especially the Sandinist Youth members. They have academic problems and other problems faced by all the combatants who are assuming their duties to their homeland, parents, brothers, and people.

A few days ago, on Sunday, we spent some time with companeros of Battalions 30-62 and 30-72 at their duty stations. Although they have problems and difficulties, most of them want to remain there for whatever time necessary and making whatever sacrifices at the front because they are aware of the fact that it is no use to save a year of classes if the people's freedom is lost. [applause and chanting of slogans] They are more concerned about their families than about themselves.

[Miriam Silva] Good evening companeros. My name is Mariam Silva. I am the sister of Commander Augusto Cesar Silva and Mauricio Mayorga Silva, both killed in Macarandi. [begins sobbing] I have a 15-year-old son who is a member of reserve Battalion 30-62. I ask that these tired boys be brought back and that new reinforcements be sent out there. It seems that there are many here who can shout all the slogans and know them by memory. If they can shout they can also fight. [applause, shouting of slogans]

[Moderator] Capt Cerda will respond to this question.

[Cerda] We repeat what we just said. We are very concerned about the return of all these young men and we are preparing the conditions for it. This means that we are looking into relieving them so that they may be brought back from the battlefront. We stress that although we are worried about them, the main concern of these companeros is the defeat of the Somozist criminals who are attacking our land. However, we want to say that, under the instructions of the top army command and the National Directorate, we are looking for reserve battalions to relieve these Sandinist Youth companeros who have been on the battlefields for some 5 months. [applause]

[Ortega Saavedra] Tonight we are going to swear in the companeros of the Antisomozist People's Courts. Companero Cordova Rivas will then explain their function and will swear these companeros in. But I would like to briefly summarize what we have discussed here today. I would like to stress certain points we feel are very important.

A companero here brought up the need to distribute weapons ~~to the CDS~~. We ~~must~~ say that the weapons have to be distributed in an organized and rational way. We can't say that we have plenty of weapons. We must know how to distribute them. Logically, when the time comes to distribute weapons, they will first be distributed at the main fronts for the defense of the revolution; in other words, at war fronts where the activities of Somozist guardsmen is stronger.

Here in the cities, we must have an active defense of the revolution wherein we combine the police -- it is true that the police cannot be everywhere at all times, but they are an organized force with weapons -- with the people's organized force, particularly the CDS and the revolutionary vigilance. But the activities of the revolutionary vigilance and the defense of the city must be carried out in an active and combative way. In other words, we cannot be tolerant of those who are aggressive against the revolutionary vigilantes or the mothers of heroes and martyrs as we were pointing out here. We must have a combative attitude against them. We can't remain still when somebody insults and attacks these vigilantes and mothers. We must fight this and put a stop to it.

As I was saying, the weapons must be in the main war fronts right now. The reserve battalions need weapons; the army needs weapons. What we need in the city is good coordination between the neighborhood companeros organized in the CDS and the Sandinist police.

A very delicate and sensitive problem has arisen here. Some parents, mothers and fathers have already mentioned it. It concerns the companeros who were sent to the war fronts and who have been gone for 5 months. This concern is natural. Who is imposing this concern, sorrow, and pain? The policy of President Reagan. We wished that all the young students and workers who were mobilized to war fronts -- there are thousands of young students and workers who were mobilized to war fronts -- were studying and producing.

In other words, we have not sought this war. We do not want this war. This war is being imposed by President Reagan's policy. It represents sacrifices and sorrow for all of us, to a greater or lesser degree: to a greater degree, logically, the children of companero who is serving in a reserve battalion; to a greater degree the mother, father, and wife of a companero who is serving. It is a sorrow which some have been suffering for the past 5 months.

The revolution has a policy which is aimed at seeking the forms and mechanisms which permit us to relieve the companeros who have been serving in combat for 5 or 6 months and have some others replace them in combat. For this, we need the people's massive integration into the reserve battalions. We need to add an increased number of combatants to face the aggression. We don't know how long it will last. However, we understand and respect this sorrow.

Nevertheless, we must remember and look at examples as a point of reference to help us cope with this suffering and sorrow. Here we have a live example. Here is Mrs Aurora Nunez Davila, mother of Companero Roger Nunez. She is a mother that helped the FSLN from its very beginning. Mrs Nunez Davila and her whole family cooperated with the FSLN at a time when it was hard to find families to help the front because they were afraid of the National Guard. They sympathized with the FSLN but they were more afraid of the Somozist guard. Carlos Fonseca lived in this companera's house.

She risked having the National Guard come to the house unexpectedly and kill her, Carlos and her children. She had a son, a young man whom we met at her house. He must have been 10, 11 or less than that, 8 or 9 years old. He grew up with the FSLN and the revolution.

When Dona Aurora's son, Roger Nunez, became 13 years old and decided to join the FSLN, she encouraged him. She told him: You are making the right decision. She supported his decision to join the FSLN as a fighter. Roger went underground and she didn't know how many months or years he was going to be underground. She didn't know when she would hear that her son had died. She suffered terribly because conditions were much worst than now. Back then we were not in power; the people had not come to power. They had not overthrown the Somozist dictatorship. We didn't even think it was going to happen in a short time.

Later, Dona Aurora's son was imprisoned. He was in jail for a long time. She accompanied him. She suffered with him in jail too, but she backed and encouraged him. Roger was a fighter in jail, he was a young fighter in jail. He was 14 or 15 years old when he was in jail. He got out of jail but not to stay home and rest with his mother. He got out to immediately join the FSLN, again underground. Time passed, months went by and one day Roger fell at the Peripheral Market. He fell along with Leonel Rugama and (Valdizon); they died fighting the Somozist guard. I recall these examples because there were other mothers who suffered just like Dona Aurora. I recall these examples so that they may somehow help the companeros and companeras, the mothers and the relatives, cope with this painful situation and this suffering because their children are serving in reserve battalions and on the battlefronts.

As Federico Cerda explained, a plan is being drawn up to seek ways to relieve these companeros. As Companera Silva said, we must integrate more companeros so that they can relieve one another and not to place the defense task only on companeros who are at the war front right now.

We want to say that the mobilization has been widespread. The children of Companero Education Minister Carlos Tunnerman were mobilized 5 months ago to the war fronts together with the sons of Companera Silva and others. I believe Companero Tunnerman is here.

Therefore, it is important that, regarding the mobilization, people must understand that an effort is being made to get more companeros to join the reserve battalions and complete more battalions in order to relieve those at the war fronts. It is also important to recall the example of mothers who, in more difficult situations as in the times under the Somoza dictatorship, saw their sons leave without having any hope of seeing them again.

It must also be recalled that we are experiencing a mobilization that calls for sacrifices and sorrow, but who is to blame for all this sorrow and sacrifices? The policy of President Reagan; in other words, the aggressive and criminal policy of the U.S. Government. If they weren't arming the Somozist guardsmen we wouldn't be in this situation because the Somozist guardsmen couldn't do much without arms even if they were in Honduras, even if they numbered 7,000 or 10,000. Even if they weren't armed by the U.S. Government, they couldn't do much. They wouldn't be much danger or threat for the Nicaraguan people.

However, President Reagan is very happy there in the United States. Probably, he has never known what adversity and poverty are. He is only accustomed to seeing his country's power and economic development. He is happily exporting crime and murder to us and is imposing sorrow and sacrifices on the Nicaraguan people, especially the mothers, the children of the companeros who have been mobilized, the children of fallen companeros, and the relatives of murdered companeros.

For this reason, we are constantly and honestly saying that we want peace. But it is one thing to want peace and another to submit to Reagan's policy. What kind of peace does he want for Nicaragua? He wants a peace with the Somozist guardsmen again in Nicaragua pushing back all the advances made by the people with the revolution. The Nicaraguan people don't want this kind of peace.

We say: President Reagan can mobilize 5,000 or 10,000 Somozist guardsmen and Pastora traitors. He can send them through Honduras or Costa Rica. He can send them through whatever country he wants to but this people will not surrender. He can send the Honduran guardsmen but this will not surrender. He can send his Marines but this people will not surrender. This people will die fighting but will not surrender. [applause, chanting of slogans]

[Moderator] The companeros who make up the Anti-Somozist People's Courts will be sworn in now. The members of the government junta will swear them in.

[Cordova Rivas] For the trial court: President; Omar Cortes Ruiz. Domingo Matute Rappaccioli and Luis Perez Duarte, main members. Sebastian Canda Sandino and Maria Argentina Lopez Dolmus, alternate members. For the court of appeals: Ligia Molina de Campos, president; Roberto Solis Quiroz and Josefa Villanueva Espinoza, main members. Marvin Ortega Rodriguez and Julia Alfaro Mora, alternate members.

HAVANA CITES JUNTA MEMBERS ON AGGRESSION

PA160504 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 14 May 83

[Text] Sergio Ramirez, member of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction of Nicaragua, has warned that the United States might close its markets to several Nicaraguan products. In a radio and television program broadcast last night, Sergio Ramirez commented on the 90-percent cut in Nicaragua's sugar quota imposed by President Ronald Reagan, saying that this measure demonstrates complete disregard for and mockery of existing international agreements.

Ramirez predicted that the U.S. President will try to threaten and thus pressure Nicaragua in the future by closing U.S. markets to Nicaraguan meat, sea products, bananas and other exports. Nevertheless, he added, Nicaragua has trade relations with other countries and the sugar that is not sent to the United States will be sold on other markets.

Meanwhile, the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry sent a strong protest note to the Honduran regime in regard to attacks on Nicaraguan territory carried out by anti-Sandinist groups operating from Honduras. The document demands that the Honduran officials put an end to the frequent acts of aggression being staged by Somozist counterrevolutionary units and members of the Honduran Army. The note states that by denying these actions the Honduran regime only contributes to an increase in bilateral tension.

Lieutenant Oscar Meza, chief of operations at Nicaragua's National Directorate of State Security, held a press conference in Managua and presented Costa Rican citizen Jose Esteban Quezada and Roberto Quezada, who were captured at the San Juan River while bringing supplies to Nicaraguan counterrevolutionary groups. Both admitted that they were members of the self-styled anti-Sandinist Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, which has staged many attacks on Nicaraguan border posts in recent weeks.

Two other counterrevolutionaries recently captured by the Nicaraguan officials admitted in Managua that Spanish priest Antonio Merino Martin supports the bands that operate in Costa Rican territory and stage attacks on Nicaragua's southern border. The arrested men, Segundo Calderon Hernandez and Eugenio Calderon Izaguirre, said that the priest constantly criticized the Sandinist revolution. The Spanish priest was earlier expelled from Nicaragua.

Commander Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Nicaraguan Government Junta, has said that the Sandinist People's Army repelled an attack by some 500 former Somozist guards from Honduras who tried to infiltrate the Nicaraguan Department of Zelaya. Ortega said that the invaders returned to Honduras in three groups, having been completely defeated. He also reported that 25 counterrevolutionaries died in clashes that took place 6-11 May in the southern Department of Rio San Juan, on the Costa Rican border. The Sandinist leader pointed out that they will struggle 20 to 40 years if necessary against the U.S. imperialist policy and are sure that they will eventually win.

JUNTA PLANS HYDRO, GEOTHERMAL POWER PLANTS

PA162341 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 May 83

[Text] Sergio Ramirez Mercado, Nicaraguan Government Junta member, has said that "the realization of our revolutionary geothermal and hydroelectric projects will make us independent of oil in a relatively short time." He made the statement after examining the advanced stage of the Momotombo geothermal project last Saturday.

He said that Nicaragua will face many difficulties in developing several projects to complement Momotombo, such as hydroelectric plants in the central area and in Zelaya Department. But this will free us of dependence on black gold, he indicated. Dr Ramirez Mercado said that once the project has been completed, which he estimates will be in 10 years, the revolution's dreams in that area will have been realized.

[Begin Ramirez recording] The Government Junta has ordered that civilian work on the second phase of the project, the other 35 mw, continue while the revolutionary government negotiates for the necessary credits to purchase the machinery with which the second phase will be operating within 1 and 1/2 to 2 years. This project represents 20 percent of the country's total electricity generation capacity at the present time. In this way, the revolution demonstrates that our natural resources and, in this case, (?geothermal) energy, can be used to promote the revolution's goals. We will begin to save on oil imports, because the imports will start to decrease once we generate geothermal energy with these turbines, and this is how the revolution will achieve energy independence in a relatively short period. [end recording]

HAVANA NOTES U.S. COURT DECISION ON TRAVEL BAN

FL172130 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2019 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] The travel ban imposed by the United States to stop U.S. citizens from coming to Cuba has been overturned by the Appellate Court of Boston, which refused to recognize the legality of the measure. Following announcement of the decision, (Vernon Burr), legal director of the Civil Liberties Union, said that any U.S. citizen who wishes to travel to Cuba may now do so.

The Boston Applellate Court said that the article of a 1917 commerce law used by Reagan administration to ban tourist travel to Cuba was no longer valid. The travel ban imposed in April 1982 by the U.S. Treasury Department prohibited practically all U.S. citizen travel to Cuba for tourism or business.

CASTRO ADDRESSES PEASANTS DAY CEREMONY

FL180019 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2302 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Commander in chief Fidel Castro addressed some brief remarks to the people attending the ceremony marking Peasants Day. He began by describing ANAP [National Association of Small Farmers] as a reformation that has always been in full flowers and vigorous.

He introduced the Nicaraguan delegation invited to the ceremony and noted the aggressions which that fraternal country has had to confront. Fidel recalled that in Nicaragua the stage of agrarian reform is beginning and that, just as happened to us at one time, the Yankees have taken away the sugar quota and are threatening them with new economic measures.

Our commander in chief said that all of this reminds us of when the revolutionary government began to enact revolutionary laws and the bourgeoisie and other elements began to react against the government.

Fidel pointed out that in Nicaragua, imperialism began with the Somozists, whom it armed and organized and had them openly participate in the most intense aggressions against that fraternal country. He said that some neighboring countries allied themselves with the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries in a devil's embrace.

The commander in chief recalled the time of banditry in our country when in practically every province, including Havana, there were bandits who murdered, burned canefields, and perpetrated all kinds of criminal acts.

The borders, he said, give some advantages to the counterrevolutionaries in Nicaragua, but the most important thing is that that fraternal country is a nation united, militant brave, and determined to defend the revolution.

Fidel observed that historically, the revolutionary masses have defeated oppression, as was the case in the French Revolution and years later in the Great October Revolution. We have an example in our revolution, he said. which has withstood the empire for almost 25 years and is ready to withstand it much longer. The same should take place in Nicaragua. Because of all this, our commander in chief pointed out, Peasants Day is also transformed into a day of support for the Nicaraguan revolution.

Fidel praised the valuable work accomplished by Havana Province in implementing the new agricultural production processes, which made it possible for the province to win the honor of hosting the ceremony marking Peasants Day, and stressed the importance of persuasion in increasing the number of cooperatives.

Fidel Castro presided over the national ceremony marking Peasants Day in the muncipality of San Antonio de los Banos in Havana Province. Today marks the 37th anniversary of the assassination of peasant leader Niceto Perez, the 24th anniversary of the signing of the first agrarian reform law, and the 22nd anniverary of the founding of the ANAP.

The ceremony's keynote speaker, Jose Ramirez Cruz, alternate member of the Politburo and president of the ANAP, said that agrarian reform was the point of departure which marked the beginning of the nation's development. He added that the law was needed, not only by the farmers, but by the working class, agricultural workers, and the entire Cuban nation.

VICE FOREIGN MINISTER ON RELATIONS WITH U.S.

FL171605 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1400 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Bonn -- Cuba is willing to contribute to the normalization of relations with the United States, but that country should radically modify its policy of blockade and hostility toward the revolution, which is the cause of the present situation.

This was said by Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada, Cuban vice minister of foreign relations, when speaking during the symposium being held in the FRG capital by the Freidrick Ebert Foundation under the title "Cuba in the 1980's" with the participation of Cuban and U.S. representatives.

ENVOY VOICES SUPPORT FOR NICARAGUA AT UN

FL171141 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Cuba has expressed its support of all efforts aimed at achieving a negotiated solution of the Central American conflicts, particularly of the aggression against Nicaragua. Cuba's position was restated before the UN Security Council by Cuban Ambassador Raul Roa Kouri.

In his speech, the Cuban diplomat accused the U.S. Government of having abandoned all claims of morality or legality when it proclaimed that its aggressive policy against Nicaragua is directed at overthrowing that country's government.

In another part of his speech, he stated that it is no secret that the Honduran military high command is deeply involved in the U.S. aggression against Nicaragua. The Cuban ambassador added that no American country will remain impassive at the imperialist aggression against a sister nation, and if it is necessary, he stated clearly, the continent will burn but no traitor will go unpunished.

PUBLIC HEALTH MINISTER TOURS LUBLIN, POLAND

FL171835 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1804 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Sergio del Valle, member of the Politburo and minister of public health, has traveled to Lublin, southeast of the Polish capital, to visit welfare centers in that region. Del Valle, who arrived in Poland yesterday leading a Cuban delegation, will be accompanied on his tour by Stanislaw Gura, Poland's first vice minister of health and social welfare.

According to the schedule, the Cuban delegation will tour the Lublin rural health center, the surgical-clinical hospital, and the former Nazi concentration camp of Majdanek. The Cuban minister and his retinue will also meet with officials of the Polish United Workers' Party and of the government of Lublin Province.

Arrives in Moscow

FL171455 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1400 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Sergio del Valle, member of the Politburo and minister of public health, has arrived in Moscow for a stopover visit at the head of a medical delegation. At Sheremtyevo International Airport, Del Valle and his companions were received by USSR Health Minister Sergey Burenkov. The Soviet minister had a friendly meeting with his Cuban counterpart; the meeting was attended by Oleg Darusenkov, chief of the Cuban Department in the CPSU Central Committee, and Luis Felipe Vazquez, minister-counselor of the Cuban Embassy to the Soviet Union.

MINISTER LEVI FARAH ARRIVES IN CONGO FOR TALKS

FL171501 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Cuba could participate in important construction projects included in the first 5-year development plan of the People's Republic of the Congo, it was reported by the Congolese media in the capital, Brazzaville, in announcing the arrival of Cuban Minister for Construction Abroad Levi Farah.

The initial list of these projects was examined by the Cuban minister during a visit he paid to the Congo last April. Included among these projects are an airport, an 80-km road, river ports, agricultural complexes, hospitals, and schools.

Meets Sassou-Nguesso, Departs

FL172021 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1826 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] From Brazzaville we have learned that Levi Farah, Cuban government minister, has concluded a working visit to the People's Republic of the Congo. During his stay in the Congo, Farah was received by Congolese President Denis Sassou-Nguesso in his native village in the region of Oyo, in the northern part of the country.

PEREZ HERRERO MEETS WITH AFGHAN DELEGATION

FL172220 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1822 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Antonio Perez Herrero, alternate member of the Politburo, has received at the main offices of the Central Committee the delegation from Afghanistan which is visiting our country at the invitation of the Cuban Institute of Friendship With Peoples.

The Afghan delegation is headed by Mohammad Dehneshin, member of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party, chief of its publicity department, and president of the Afghan-Cuban Friendship Association. During the meeting, which took place in a fraternal atmosphere, they exchanged notes on the ideological tasks of the two parties.

CUBA, BULGARIA SIGN DOMESTIC TRADE PROTOCOL

FL171530 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1330 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Sofia -- The first session of the Subcommission for Domestic Trade between Bulgaria and Cuba ended in this capital today with the signing of a protocol containing the work plan for 1983-84 and an agreement regarding the typical restaurants of the two countries located in Sofia and Havana.

The area for Cuban-Bulgarian cooperation comprises social entertainment, business equipment, and restaurant chains, as well as the domestic trade organization.

The Bulgarian-Cuban subcommission is the first in the field of domestic trade to be created between socialist states. The subcommission also studied the prospects of trade for 1985.

The protocol was signed by Bulgarian and Cuban Ministers of Domestic Trade Georgi Karamanev and Manuel Vila Sosa, who stressed the importance of the recently created subcommission as a new step in the progress of relations between the two countries.

HUNGARIAN ATTORNEY GENERAL HEADS DELEGATION

FL172209 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2004 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] A high-level delegation from the Hungarian People's Republic led by Dr Karoly Fekete, Hungary's attorney general, has been welcomed at Jose Marti airport by Idalberto L. Guevara Quintana, attorney general of the Republic of Cuba.

The delegation of Hungarian attorneys will hold a series of working meetings with their Cuban counterparts to exchange notes in the area of legal controls. Similarly, they will study the organization and work of the attorney general's office on all fronts. The delegation will also visit other bodies of the legal profession in our country.

The meeting, which opened in the headquarters of the attorney general's office, was also attended by Jeno Jakus, Hungarian ambassador to Cuba, and other officials of the legal profession.

OLIVER TAMBO RECEIVED BY CASTRO, DEPARTS

FL161310 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1045 GMT 16 May 83

[Text] Oliver Tambo, president of the African National Congress, has ended his visit to our country. The top leader of the African majority sectors was received by our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro and other leaders of our revolution. He also carried out numerous activities during his stay in Cuba. He was seen off at Jose Marti International Airport by Jesus Montane, alternate member of the Politburo, member of the Central Committee Secretariat, and head of its General Department of Foreign Relations.

ANTIGUA

BIRD WOULD WELCOME INCREASED U.S. PRESENCE

FL172040 Bridgetown CANA in English 2000 GMT 17 May 83

[Excerpt] St Johns, Antigua, May 17, CANA -- Antigua and Barbuda prime minister, Vere Bird, says he would welcome an increased United States presence in the Eastern Caribbean, to help protect democratically elected governments in the region. The prime minister made the point during an address yesterday at a ground breaking ceremony for a building to house the permanent United States Embassy in Antigua.

Mr Bird said an increased U.S. presence is needed to counter the presence of unfriendly interests in the Eastern Caribbean. We are next door to the United States -- the Eastern Caribbean and Antigua -- and therefore there is the need for the presence of the U.S. to these islands. "We were brought up supporting the idea of democracy, respect for the individual, mutual respect for ourselves... mutual respect among ourselves, people being able from time to time to elect a government of their choice. "We felt all along that this was to be the pattern by which our area would be governed, but today, other people seem to have other ideas," Mr Bird said.

BAHAMAS

DENIAL ISSUED ON DOMINICAN BOAT INCIDENT

FL131815 Nassau Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 13 May 83

[Text] The minister of external affairs and attorney general issued a statement today regarding press reports of a Bahamian Defense Force vessel firing on a Dominican Republican [as heard] vessel. Here is Mr Adderley speaking.

[Begin Adderley recording] It has come to the attention of the Government of the Bahamas that press reports have appeared in the Dominican Republic and have been circulated internationally on the international wire services to the effect that Dominican fishing boats have been fired upon by Bahamian patrol boats within the past week.

In fact, I have a report -- a press report in the Dominican Republic -- saying that the Dominican patrol boat was sent to the area where the incident is alleged to have taken place -- or incidents are alleged to have taken place. Those reports identify the area as being the Silver Banks and Navidad Banks, north of the Dominican Republic. Those banks are southeastwardly of the Turks and Caicos Islands. They are not in the Bahamas. They are not claimed in the Bahamas. And there is absolutely no truth whatsoever to the allegation that Dominican boats were fired upon by Bahamian Coast Guard boats, who were not in the area at all and would not be in that area in any event. Where this incident is supposed to have taken place is just not in the Bahamas at all, not even near the Bahamas and southeastwardly of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

As a result of that, we have sent today a note -- a formal note -- to the Government of the Dominican Republic informing them that these matters have come to our attention and denying these reports -- completely and absolutely denying these reports -- and informing them that no Bahamian boats have been involved in any incident with any of their fishermen.

That will be in their hands today and we are asking them to investigate this matter for us and make appropriate denials of these stories which we know have appeared in the press in the Dominican Republic and we know have been circulated internationally. [end of recording]

That was the minister of external affairs and attorney general, the Hon Paul Adderley.

BARBADOS

CARICOM AGRICULTURE MINISTERS CONCLUDE MEETING

FL141858 Bridgetown CANA in English 1817 GMT 14 May 83

[By Reudon Eversley]

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, May 14, CANA -- Caribbean Community (Caricom) agriculture ministers last night ended here what has been hailed as their most successful meeting in years, pledging their governments to facilitating the free trading of agricultural produce in the region under the Agricultural Marketing Protocol (AMP). Officials said the ministers had during their four days of talks agreed on a new direction for the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) and the Caribbean Food Corporation (CFC).

CARDI and the CFC, both official agencies of the Caricom system, had been criticized by Caricom governments, for failing to live up to expectations. CARDI was formed to spearhead the developmental thrust of regional agriculture and the CFC's role was to boost food production within the 12-nation community.

Conference chairman, Barbados minister of agriculture, Dr Richard Cheltenham, told reporters the ministers had agreed in principle that there was an urgent need for the free trading of produce in the region. He said AMP officials would meet here next week to work out the precise formula for achieving this.

"In the past, there had been several reservations expressed with respect even to the principle of free trade...in relation to the movement of fresh agricultural produce in the region, but now these reservations have been removed and we have agreed that the time has come to put the mechanisms in place so as to give expression to that commitment," Dr Cheltenham said. Barbados put up a paper which Dr Cheltenham said would form the basis for the deliberations at next week's AMP officials meeting. He declined to give details. The formula worked out by the AMP officials would go before Caricom heads of government at their summit in July.

With regards to the operations of CARDI, which is based in Trinidad and Tobago, Caricom secretary-general, Dr Kurleigh King told newsmen the ministers had appointed a new chairman for CARDI as part of a reorganisation process. He declined to name the chairman. "They have not decided to scrap CARDI. They decided it has to be reorganised, restructured, staffed, and properly financed and that it is going to work," Dr King said.

Besides putting a 700 million dollar (one TT dollar 41 cents U.S.) ceiling on CARDI's budget for the next three years, the ministers agreed that the institute's governors, who hadly met in the past, would meet at least once a year to review its activities and give proper direction, the Caricom secretary-general said.

"If the decisions we have reached are carried out with the urgency and seriousness and the speed which we hope they will be carried out, I think we will succeed in putting CARDI on a new footing and saving it from collapse," Dr Cheltenham said.

The Caricom secretary-general said the agriculture ministers had recognised CFC as a main implementing agency of the regional food and nutrition strategy and had decided that it would have a commercial orientation, with emphasis on commercially viable projects.

Said Dr King: "This does not mean it will not invest in developmental projects, but where it does so, it has to ensure that developmental projects are matched by profitable commercial projects so as to maintain the overall financial viability of the corporation."

The Caricom agriculture ministers felt the private sector could be drafted into the CFC to put their decision making expertise at the disposal of the corporation.

Dr King said they felt this was possible by having some member countries name private sector officials as their representatives on the CFC board, serving either as directors or alternate directors. He also said the CFC board had recognised a need for more investments by shareholders and it would discuss with member governments the possibility of an additional share issue.

"They do realise that unless further injections of capital are made into CFC, it will accumulate further losses...and that will erode the capital already invested and CFC will not be able to make any further equity investments in projects," Dr King said.

The Caricom agriculture ministers looked at the incidence of extra-regional powers exploiting the region's marine resources and have mandated the Caricom Secretariat to investigate the matter and submit the findings at their next meeting, scheduled for January 1984, Dr Ding said. They also set up what has been dubbed a ministerial monitoring mechanism to continue the supervision of ministers in between meetings.

Dr King explained: "In the past, a minister chaired the meeting and then, in the interim, there was no ministerial direction until the next meeting took place. What is going to happen in [the] future is that they have agreed that the chairman of one of those meetings will be the chairman of all of them as took place this week."

"The chairman of the Standing Committee will also be the chairman of CFC and will also be the chairman of the governing body of CARDI and that chairman will remain in office until the next series of meetings in the following year and will exercise the authority of the Board of Governors on its behalf in between meetings." In line with this decision, Barbados agriculture minister, Dr Cheltenham, will hold these posts until the next series of meetings in January.

GRENADA

HAVANA CITES MAURICE BISHOP ON AIRPORT

PA170441 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Grenadian Prime Minister Maurice Bishop said that the completion of the work on the new international airport scheduled for 1984 is a political victory for his country, in the face of U.S. efforts to stop its construction.

Bishop pointed out that during the past 3 years, the people of Grenada have overcome great difficulties to provide the country with a modern airport, which is indispensable for economic and social development. He added that the people still have to face attacks from Washington intended to frustrate the successful completion of the airport.

The Grenadian Prime Minister made this statement when appointing the national committee responsible for organizing the celebrations ot the fifth anniversary of the political process that began in 1979 with the overthrow of the Eric Gairy regime.

JAMAICA

GROUP CALLS FOR INQUIRY INTO KILLINGS BY POLICE

FL141335 Kingston Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 14 May 83

[Text] The Jamaican Council on Human Rights has taken note of the number of killings taking place in the (?nation). In a statement yesterday, the council said statistics showed that since the beginning of this year 113 persons were killed and of this number 41 were killed by the police. Within the last week, the council said, 11 persons had been killed and 8 of these were killed by the police.

The Human Rights Council has also demanded an immediate public inquiry into the circumstances under which the six men were shot and killed by the police in Westmoreland. According to the council, the frequency under which people are shot and killed by the police without proper explanation or redress has been and continues to be one of the areas of citizens' rights most violated in Jamaica.

OPPOSITION LEADER CRITICIZES GOVERNMENT POLICIES

FL131235 Kingston Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 13 May 83

[Text] The leader of the opposition, Mr Michael Manley, has criticized the government's policies when having reemphasize the (?veracity) of every man for himself and throwing out the importance of a social (?contact) by anticipating a flood of foreign capital which has not materialized.

Mr Manley said the JLP [Jamaican Labor Party] strategy was based on unlimited consumer satisfaction, divestment of state institutions, which had been designed to have the people participate, deregulation, and dependence on foreign capital. Mr Manley pointed out that the opposition had not done anything over the past 2 years to prevent the JLP from implementing its strategy, which they said would make money jingle in people's pockets.

He recalled some of the announcements made by Mr Seaga in his first prime ministerial budget presentation in 1981 forecasting greatly increased bauxite-alumina sales and completion of a new alumina processing plant. Mr Manley said that this year's favorite project, the U.S. CBI [Caribbean Basin Initiative] Agro-21, designed to greatly boost (?our) export agriculture seems (?conductive) to the 1981 high promise with undue dependency on foreign imports. [passage indistinct]

TALKS BEGUN WITH CUBA ON COOPERATION PROGRAM

FL171920 Bridgetown CANA in English 1752 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Paramaribo, Suriname, May 17, CANA -- Officials from Suriname and Cuba have started talks here on a proposed one-year programme of cooperation in areas ranging from agriculture to construction between the two countries, the official Suriname News Agency (SNA) reported today.

The meeting, the first by the Suriname-Cuba Joint Commission, was opened by Suriname's Finance Minister Winston Caldeira. It will run until May 27. The commission will prepare a programme of cooperation for 1983-84 in such areas as agriculture, public health, culture, education, planning, transport, trade, finance, public workers, telecommunications and construction.

SNA said Caldeira suggested that the commission's work must be viewed in the light of Suriname's foreign policy, which was based on the national development with the objective of serving the interest of the people. Another starting point, he said, was Suriname's striving for integration in the region.

Diplomatic relations between Suriname and Cuba were established in 1979, and since then, there have been a large number of exchanges in the technical and cultural fields. In 1982, an agreement for cooperation between the two countries was signed.

Mr Caldeira said the details of this agreement would be worked out by the joint commission during this meeting.

Caldeira, along with leader of the Cuban delegation Roberto Rivas expressed the wish that the ties between the two fraternal peoples would be strengthened for the benefit of both countries.

Rivas pointed out that the peaceful meeting was taking place at a time when "U.S. imperialism" was attempting to stir up contradictions in Central America and other parts of the world.

He expressed the hope that at the next meeting of the commission in Havana next year, a positive balance would be made about the development cooperation between Suriname and Cuba.